United Nations A/70/876

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 May 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 73 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Letter dated 6 May 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 60/124, by which the Assembly established the Central Emergency Response Fund Advisory Group to provide advice to the Secretary-General on the use and impact of the Fund.

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 21 of the resolution, I hereby transmit a note on the first meeting of 2016 of the Advisory Group, which was held in New York on 21 and 22 March (see annex).

On an exceptional basis, the Advisory Group advanced its first meeting in order to prepare for the forthcoming World Humanitarian Summit, taking into consideration the report of the Secretary-General entitled "One humanity: shared responsibility", which contains the Agenda for Humanity, and to address issues relevant to the Fund that will be discussed at the high-level leaders' round table on investing in humanity to be held in May 2016.

As summarized in the note, the Advisory Group received a briefing on the use and management of the Fund during the period since its previous meeting, held in October 2015, until mid-March 2016. The Group was advised that the Fund was projecting a funding shortfall of $50 million by the end of 2016 with respect to the annual funding target of $450 million. The Emergency Relief Coordinator emphasized that the heavy demand for funds had persisted as a result of overwhelming global humanitarian needs. The Group reiterated the need for the Fund to be well resourced since the Fund was central to timely and predictable life-saving responses worldwide. In that respect, it was vital that all efforts, including outreach to new donors, be made to enable the Fund to reach its annual funding target in 2016.

The Advisory Group welcomed and endorsed the call for the funding target of the Fund to be expanded to $1 billion by 2018 and echoed the emerging broad consensus that the expanded Fund should maintain its speed, scope and life-saving focus, while increasing its scale of response and impact. The Group emphasized the

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importance of meeting the new target, including by urgently diversifying the donor base to complement the contributions of the current top donors.

The Advisory Group asked all Member States, in particular core supporters of the Fund, and senior officials of the United Nations, to be at the forefront of those efforts. It encouraged the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to provide leadership and guidance, with the support of the Fund secretariat, for the ongoing advocacy and engagement that will lay the foundation for the future of the Fund.

The Advisory Group received updates on policy issues, including the year-end analysis of information contained in the reports of resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators on the use and impact of the funds allocated in 2014; the finalization of a policy for communication in the event of fraudulent use of the funds; and the findings from independent reviews of the added value of the Fund in the context of the crises in the Syrian Arab Republic and in South Sudan, and the humanitarian emergency situation in Iraq.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

Annex

Note on the meeting of the Central Emergency Response Fund Advisory Group held on 21 and 22 March 2016

Summary of the meeting

1. The Central Emergency Response Fund Advisory Group was established by the General Assembly in resolution 60/124 in order to advise the Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, on the use and impact of the Fund. The first meeting of the Group in 2016 was held in New York on 21 and 22 March and was chaired by Manuel Bessler (Switzerland).

2. On an exceptional basis, the Advisory Group advanced the dates of its first meeting of 2016 in order to prepare for the forthcoming World Humanitarian Summit, taking into consideration the report of the Secretary-General entitled "One humanity: shared responsibility", which contains the Agenda for Humanity", and to address issues relevant to the Fund that will be discussed at the high-level leaders' round table on investing in humanity to be held in May 2016.

3. The Secretary-General met with the Advisory Group and emphasized the vital role that the Fund plays in United Nations humanitarian efforts. In his report, the Secretary-General called upon Advisory Group members to provide advice and support for the concerted efforts to expand the funding target of the Fund to $1 billion by 2018.

4. The Emergency Relief Coordinator briefed the Advisory Group on the use and management of the Fund during the period since its previous meeting, held in October 2015, until mid-March 2016. After the briefing, a discussion was held on the future of the Fund in the context of the recommendation of the Secretary-General recommendation to expand the funding target to $1 billion. The Group then discussed resource mobilization, advocacy and communication activities for the Fund in 2016.

5. In addition, the Group received and considered updates on key policy issues, including the analysis of information contained in the reports of resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators on the use and impact of the funds allocated in 2014; on the implementation of the Fund's communication policy in the event of fraudulent use of the funds; on findings from the independent reviews of the added value of the Fund for the regional response to the crises in the Syrian Arab Republic and in South Sudan and to the humanitarian needs in Iraq; and on monitoring guidance for field staff with respect to the Fund.

6. The Advisory Group met with representatives of recipient agencies and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. In its interaction with them, the Group focused primarily on the future of the Fund and the timeliness of sub-grants between recipient agencies and their implementing partners.

7. Further to those discussions, the Advisory Group made the observations and recommendations set out below.

Observations, conclusions and recommendations

8. The Advisory Group welcomed the briefing by the Emergency Relief Coordinator on the use and management of the Fund from October 2015 until mid-March 2016, which included an update on the 2015 and 2016 funding status and an overview of humanitarian operations supported by the Fund during that period. The Emergency Relief Coordinator emphasized that, in line with overwhelming global humanitarian needs, the heavy demand for funds had persisted and advised that the Fund was projecting a funding shortfall of $50 million by the end of 2016 with respect to the annual funding target of $450 million.

9. The Emergency Relief Coordinator also provided highlights of key Fund allocations. He indicated that the Fund had been at the forefront of the response to the humanitarian consequences of the El Niño climatic phenomenon in 15 countries and had supported emergency assistance in the Lake Chad Basin region as a result of Boko Haram-related violence and in silent and severely underfunded emergency operations conducted in nine countries (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Libya, Mali, Sudan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania).

10. The Group reconfirmed the vital role of the Fund for enabling effective, timely and life-saving humanitarian responses worldwide. The Fund had achieved a formidable track record over the past 10 years in terms of speed, scale of response and impact on saving lives worldwide.

11. The Advisory Group welcomed and endorsed the call of the Secretary-General for the funding target of the Fund to be expanded to $1 billion by 2018 and echoed the emerging broad consensus that the expanded Fund should maintain its speed, scope and life-saving focus, while increasing its scale of response and impact.

12. The Fund stakeholders present at the meeting were encouraged to scale up their advocacy and political support for the expanded Fund in the lead-up to the World Humanitarian Summit and to ensure that the Fund's expansion featured adequately in the major ongoing processes. These would include the contribution of the Fund to the "grand bargain" proposed by the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and the core commitments of the World Humanitarian Summit high-level leaders' round table on investing in humanity. In addition, the Advisory Group emphasized the importance of meeting the new funding target, including by urgently diversifying the donor base to complement the contributions of the current top donors.

13. The Advisory Group called upon all Member States, in particular core supporters of the Fund, and senior officials of the United Nations to be at the forefront of those efforts. The Group encouraged the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to provide leadership and guidance, with the support of the Fund secretariat, for the ongoing advocacy and engagement that will lay the foundation for the future of the Fund. Building on the Fund's successful 10-year track record, the Group also emphasized the importance of making a compelling case for the Fund, focusing on evidence and results to further attract new donors and enhance commitment from existing ones.

14. Upon receiving the update on the Fund's resource mobilization, advocacy and communication activities for 2016, Advisory Group members reiterated the need for a well-resourced Fund, which was central to enabling timely and predictable life-

saving responses worldwide. In that respect, it was vital that all efforts, including outreach to new donors, be made to enable the Fund to reach its annual funding target in 2016. The Group also welcomed the recent efforts of the Fund to explore innovative financing opportunities and encouraged the Fund secretariat to proceed with the ongoing activities and to keep the Group informed during the process. In addition, the Group agreed that the Fund's innovative financing solutions could have the potential to serve as a pilot for the broader humanitarian community.

15. The Advisory Group expressed appreciation for the significant improvements in the Fund's evidence-based advocacy and outreach activities, noting that efforts should be stepped up to increase the Fund's visibility and to demonstrate the added value and comparative advantage of the Fund across multiple communication platforms. The members of the Group also acknowledged their role in advocating for the Fund, including to achieve the annual target, through active outreach at the national and regional levels and through their peer networks, and requested the Fund secretariat to provide a clear plan and readily available information and communication material to support their advocacy efforts.

16. In response to the update on key policy issues, the Advisory Group expressed its particular appreciation for the work undertaken by the Fund secretariat with respect to the analysis of performance data from resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator reports on the use and impact of funds allocated in 2014. The Group recommended that the information on the individuals assisted by with the funds, on partnerships through sub-granting and on the added value of the Fund be presented in a more coherent and easily understandable manner that would appeal to the wider public. Such improvements would allow for an even better contextualization and representation of what the Fund undertakes.

17. The Advisory Group members also discussed the Fund's role in large-scale protracted emergencies, including those resourced through the underfunded emergencies window, welcomed the flexibility of the response of the Fund and noted the importance of the Fund maintaining a life-saving focus also in such crises.

18. The Advisory Group members also emphasized that the timeliness of sub-granting and the focus on partnerships were central to demonstrating the effectiveness of the Fund and would thus play an important role in any future outreach and efforts to support and advocate for the expanded funding target of the Fund. The importance of positioning the Fund correctly in the overall humanitarian landscape was noted. While only the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration could access the Fund directly, the Fund should not be perceived as benefitting only the United Nations since it allows the Organization to add value to the broader humanitarian system.

19. The Advisory Group received a briefing on the implementation of the Fund's communication policy in the event of fraudulent use of the funds and was notified of a case of potential misuse of the funds by a recipient agency's implementing partner. The members recognized the ongoing work in relation to the potential fraudulent use of the funds and welcomed in particular the guidance note on communicating the fraudulent use of Central Emergency Response Fund funds and standard operating procedures for handling potential fraud. The Group recommended that the standard operating procedures elaborate further on the timeline in order to ensure the timely communication of fraud or the potential

misuse of funds to donors and that they properly reflect the discretionary role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to determine at what point information on the potential fraudulent use of the funds would be shared with donors, given the associated reputational risks. The Group also reiterated the need to include the topic as their standing agenda item and encouraged the Fund secretariat to keep abreast of relevant developments with partner agencies regarding risk management. The Emergency Relief Coordinator concluded the discussion by acknowledging the critical nature of the issue and the importance of keeping donors informed though timely and regular communications by the Fund.

20. Upon being briefed on the preliminary and final findings from the two independent reviews of the added value of the Fund for the regional responses to the crises in the Syrian Arab Republic and in South Sudan and to the humanitarian needs in Iraq unrelated to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Advisory Group welcomed the reviews and reiterated that they proved to be timely insights into the operations of the Fund, highlighting challenges, opportunities and lessons learned.

21. The Advisory Group applauded the recent agreement by the United Nations Controller to reduce programme support costs levied by the Secretariat from 3 to 2 per cent, effective 1 June 2016. This would increase efficiency, release more funds for humanitarian action and make the Fund even more attractive to donors to channel their humanitarian assistance for global life-saving action. It was noted that a decrease in programme support costs should have no impact on the coverage of the Fund secretariat's operational requirements.

22. The Advisory Group members also welcomed the work undertaken towards further enhancing the transparency of the Fund's allocations and stressed the importance of the availability of real-time allocation information for public consumption. They welcomed the recent developments in relation to the methodology and process pertaining to the allocations through the Fund's underfunded emergencies window, pointing specifically to the transparency of the allocation model, its added value for external stakeholders and the additional donor outreach to complement the allocation.

23. The Advisory Group welcomed the opportunity to meet and exchange views with the recipient agencies and implementing partners of Central Emergency Response Fund funds. The Group also reiterated the usefulness of including this interaction as a standing agenda item for its meetings. It welcomed the support that the recipient agencies expressed for the expansion of the funding target of the Fund, which it saw as the crucial enabler of their response. While the Group recognized the work done to date with regard to the issues of timeliness, sub-granting and partnerships, it reiterated that rapid disbursement of the funds from agencies to their implementing partners remained central to the Fund's life-saving mandate and that it was crucial for maintaining the Fund's reputation as an effective humanitarian financing mechanism. In that respect, it encouraged further improvements, for example, through the introduction of agency-specific benchmarks and internal targets. Several agencies reiterated the need to look at the timeliness data in context, in that, for example, disbursements to partners might intentionally occur at different phases of the project cycle according to implementation plans.

Administrative matters

24. Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko (South Africa) was selected as the new Vice-Chair of the Advisory Group.

25. The Advisory Group expressed its thanks to the outgoing members whose mandates would end in 2016 — Eltje Aderhold (Germany), Ahmed Al-Meraikhi (Qatar), Jozef Andriessen (the Netherlands), Nestor Koko (Côte d'Ivoire), Jette Michelsen (Denmark) and Julius Oketta (Uganda) — for their contribution to the work of the Group.

26. The next meeting of the Advisory Group will be held in late 2016.

United Nations A/70/877

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 May 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 120
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Letter dated 25 February 2016 from the President of the General Assembly to Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations

This year, the United Nations will undertake the process to select and appoint its next Secretary-General, a matter which I consider to be among the most significant issues to be addressed by this Organization in 2016.

As you recall, guided by the principles of transparency and inclusivity, the President of the Security Council and I jointly circulated a letter dated 15 December 2015 which began the process of soliciting candidates for the position of Secretary-General (A/70/623-S/2015/988). As a result, we have received the names of six candidates to date, which have been duly circulated to the membership. A dedicated page on the website of the President of the General Assembly, which will be continually updated as future candidates are presented, provides a list of the names of all the candidates received as well as accompanying documents (see www.un.org/pga/70/sg).

As stated in the above-mentioned letter, we committed to offering candidates opportunities for informal dialogues or meetings with the members of our respective bodies. By its resolution 69/321 of 11 September 2015, the General Assembly specifically decided to conduct informal dialogues or meetings with candidates for the position of Secretary-General, without prejudice to any candidate who does not participate, thus contributing to the transparency and inclusivity of the process.

It is my intention to begin these meetings, from 12 to 14 April, for all candidates who have been formally presented by that time, based on and in accordance with the principles outlined in relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 69/321. The meetings will provide candidates with an opportunity to present their candidatures, and Member States with an opportunity to ask questions and interact with them. To this end, each candidate will be afforded a two-hour meeting slot. The annex to the present letter contains the anticipated format for the meetings, which will be replicated for any subsequent meetings in order to provide equal opportunities to all candidates. The informal dialogues or meetings will be as open and transparent as possible, with the considerable interest

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from the global public and civil society being duly kept in mind. A detailed agenda for these April meetings will be made available in due course.

With a view to facilitating an inspired interaction, candidates will be invited to provide a concise vision statement in a timely manner, which will allow the statement to be circulated through my office to Member States in advance of each informal meeting. These statements could lay out the candidates' vision on challenges and opportunities that the United Nations and the next Secretary-General may encounter, such as in the fields of peace and security, sustainable development, human rights, humanitarian response and issues pertaining to the management of the Organization.

Recalling the invitation for early presentation of candidates, and bearing in mind the desirability for the Secretary-General to be appointed as early as possible, additional meetings will, as mentioned above, be organized for any candidacies that may still be submitted. I take this opportunity to encourage Member States to present candidates in time to participate in the April meetings.

Pursuant to this round of dialogues, I will continue to assess the need for providing additional opportunities for exchanges with candidates. For example, I intend to invite all declared candidates to attend and observe the three high-level thematic debates, which I will convene in the coming months, and which will focus on the panoply of challenges and opportunities facing the United Nations at 70 and the next Secretary-General, across the three pillars of the work of the United Nations.

Given the considerable interest in these dialogues, I encourage mindful scheduling of other meetings. I also encourage representation at the ambassadorial level.

It is my sincere hope that these informal dialogues will help ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate for the position of Secretary-General.

(*Signed*) Mogens **Lykketoft**

Annex

General Assembly

Informal dialogues with candidates for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations

In line with the principles of transparency and inclusivity, the format of the informal dialogues will be based on the outline below.

- Candidates will be invited to provide a short, focused vision statement (up to 2,000 words), to be circulated through the Office of the President of the General Assembly, as received, ideally no later than one week in advance of the informal meeting.[a]
- A two-hour segment for each individual candidate will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly.
- An opening statement will be delivered by the candidate (10 minutes).
- Member States will pose questions on a first-come, first-served basis, bearing in mind requests from groups.
- Member States are strongly encouraged to limit their questions and comments to a maximum of two minutes and to focus on specific questions in an interactive manner. The President will enforce this time limit, as appropriate.
- Candidates will be given the opportunity to respond to Member States' interventions at regular intervals.
- Meetings will be open and broadcast on the Internet with interpretation in all official languages, and will follow General Assembly seating protocol. A link to each webcast will be posted on www.un.org/pga/70/sgfor future reference.
- One to two representatives from civil society will be given the floor, time permitting.

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[a] This statement could lay out the vision of the candidate on challenges and opportunities that the United Nations and the next Secretary-General may encounter, such as in the fields of peace and security, sustainable development, human rights, humanitarian response and issues pertaining to the management of the Organization.

United Nations A/70/878

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 May 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 120
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Letter dated 29 March 2016 from the President of the General Assembly to Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations

Pursuant to my letter of 25 February 2016 regarding the informal dialogues, to be held from 12 to 14 April 2016, between the members of the General Assembly and the candidates for the position of Secretary-General that have been formally presented to date in accordance with resolution 69/321 (A/70/878), I am pleased to share with you the schedule for those meetings (see annex). The schedule and relevant information will also be available at www.un.org/pga/70/sg.

Further to the details on the format for the meetings set out in the annex to the above-mentioned letter, I am also pleased to supplement and highlight some of the information regarding the organization of the meetings.

The informal dialogues will be held in accordance with established practice for informal meetings of the General Assembly, e.g. there will be no pre-established list of speakers and Member States will pose questions from their seats on a first-come, first-served basis, and General Assembly seating protocol will be observed. With a view to ensuring the efficient conduct of the meeting, I encourage Member States to pose questions in groups and to bear in mind questions already posed by others. In this context, Member States that indicate that they are speaking on behalf of groups will be given priority.

The informal dialogues will take the format of a series of two-hour segments, one for each candidate. Candidates will be invited to present an opening statement (10 minutes) to be followed by questions from Member States as set out below. I intend to group questions together, and candidates will be given the opportunity to respond to Member States' interventions at regular intervals.

To further enhance the interactive nature of the meeting, Member States are encouraged to pose short, focused questions. As previously mentioned in the annex to my letter of 25 February, Member States are strongly encouraged to limit their interventions to a maximum of two minutes; groups will be afforded three minutes. A mechanism to facilitate compliance with the time limit will be installed, and I intend to enforce this time limit strictly, in the interest of ensuring equal

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opportunities and taking a balanced approach with regard to all candidates, as well as Member States.

The meetings will be open and broadcast on the Internet, with interpretation in all official languages. A link to each webcast will be posted on the above-mentioned web page for future reference. In addition, the facilitation of a press stakeout after the informal meeting has been offered to each candidate.

In the context of transparency and inclusivity, one to two representatives from civil society will be given the floor, time permitting. Information on the process of facilitating civil society engagement with a call for questions was made available on the above-mentioned website on 26 February.

It is my sincere hope that these informal dialogues will help to ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate for the position of Secretary-General.

(*Signed*) Mogens **Lykketoft**

Annex

Schedule

Tuesday, 12 April

Morning session (9 a.m.-1 p.m.), Trusteeship Council Chamber

9 a.m.-11 a.m.	Igor Lukšić
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Irina Bokova

Afternoon session (3 p.m.-5 p.m.), Trusteeship Council Chamber

3 p.m.-5 p.m.	António Guterres

Wednesday, 13 April

Morning session (9 a.m.-1 p.m.), Trusteeship Council Chamber

9 a.m.-11 a.m.	Danilo Türk
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Vesna Pusić

Afternoon session (3 p.m.-5 p.m.), Trusteeship Council Chamber

3 p.m.-5 p.m.	Natalia Gherman

Thursday, 14 April

Afternoon session (3 p.m.-5 p.m.), Trusteeship Council Chamber

3 p.m.-5 p.m.	Srgjan Kerim

United Nations A/70/879

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 May 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 35
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Background	2
III.	Right of return	5
	A. Scope of displacement, return and local integration	5
	B. Institutional framework and operational measures	11
IV.	Prohibition of forced demographic changes	15
V.	Humanitarian access	15
	A. International legal foundations governing humanitarian access	15
	B. Operational challenges	16
VI.	Property rights of refugees and internally displaced persons	18
VII.	Timetable for the voluntary return of all refugees and internally displaced persons and work towards durable solutions	18
VIII.	Conclusion	18

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/286, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report at its seventieth session on the implementation of the resolution. The report covers the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 and draws on information received from a number of United Nations entities.

2. In accordance with the provisions of the resolution, the report focuses on: (a) the right of return of all refugees and internally displaced persons and their descendants, regardless of ethnicity; (b) the prohibition of forced demographic changes; (c) humanitarian access; (d) the importance of preserving the property rights of refugees and internally displaced persons; and (e) the development of a timetable to ensure the prompt voluntary return of all refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes.

II. Background

3. Following an escalation of conflict in 1992-1993, which caused significant displacement of civilians, armed hostilities between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides ended with the signing in Moscow on 14 May 1994 of the Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces (see S/1994/583 and Corr.1). The agreement was preceded by the signing in Moscow on 4 April 1994 of the quadripartite agreement on the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons (see S/1994/397), in which the parties agreed to cooperate and interact in planning and conducting activities to safeguard and guarantee the safe, secure and dignified return of people who had fled from areas in the conflict zone to the areas of their previous permanent residence. Armed hostilities between the Georgian and South Ossetian sides ended with the 24 June 1992 Sochi Agreement, which established a ceasefire between the Georgian and South Ossetian forces and the creation of the Joint Control Commission and Joint Peacekeeping Forces.

4. Following the hostilities which started in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia on 7 and 8 August 2008, the six-point ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and the implementing measures of 8 September 2008 (see S/2008/631, paras. 7-15), international discussions were launched in Geneva on 15 October 2008, co-chaired by representatives of the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations (see S/2009/69 and Corr.1, paras. 5-7). In accordance with the above-mentioned agreement, the international discussions were to address the issues of security and stability and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees. By the end of the reporting period, 35 rounds of the Geneva international discussions had been held, with participants meeting in two parallel working groups.

5. In June 2011, the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/288, approved the budget for the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions. The establishment of a special political mission has facilitated the continued engagement of the United Nations in the Geneva process. The United Nations Representative and his team are responsible for preparing, in consultation with the Co-Chairs, the sessions of the Geneva international discussions. In December 2015, the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/249 A, appropriated the

programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for special political missions, including for the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions. Moreover, in my report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, I included among the proposed resource requirements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016 the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions, which has an open-ended mandate (see A/70/348 and Add.1).

6. The United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions and his team are also responsible for preparing, convening and facilitating the periodic meetings of the Joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism under United Nations auspices in Gali (see S/2009/254, paras. 5 and 6). The most recent (35th) meeting of the Mechanism took place on 23 March 2012, and the meetings, unfortunately, have not been resumed since. After multiple efforts, including my consistent calls to resume the work of the Mechanism, participants reached a tentative agreement to resume the meetings of the Mechanism at the thirty-fifth round of the Geneva international discussions, held on 23 March 2016. I welcome this decision. As long as the Mechanism remains suspended, the risk of escalation and incidents on the ground exists. While recognizing the efforts by the United Nations Representative and his team to engage with all relevant stakeholders for incident prevention and response during the four-year period of suspension, I am hopeful that meetings of the Mechanism will restart without delay and will contribute to maintaining a stable and calm situation on the ground.

7. During the reporting period, participants in Working Group I of the Geneva international discussions continued to discuss the security situation on the ground, expressing their concerns with regard to procedures for crossings and the broader issue of the freedom of movement. During all rounds of the Geneva international discussions that were held during the reporting period, all participants assessed the overall security situation as relatively calm and stable. They also continued discussions on the key issues of the non-use of force and international security arrangements. In that regard, it should be noted that international obligations constraining the use or threat of force, without prejudice to the right of individual or collective self-defence, are embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments. There were also discussions on steps in the direction of pledges on the non-use of force, including on the unilateral statements by all relevant stakeholders. I would encourage all relevant participants to engage constructively on the issues of the non-use of force and freedom of movement, with a view to making tangible progress.

8. Working Group II continued to seek to address issues of the humanitarian needs of all affected populations. Although the issue of internally displaced persons and refugees and their voluntary return was kept on the agenda of Working Group II, there was, regrettably, little substantive discussion and no progress in addressing this important issue owing to objections expressed by some participants. There was no sustainable return to areas of habitual residence during the reporting period. Voluntary return is a right of displaced populations and should be addressed from this perspective.

9. In the context of Working Group II, the Co-Chairs discussed with participants the possibility of allowing and facilitating humanitarian visits to religious sites,

including graveyards, across administrative boundary lines throughout the year, with a particular focus during the Easter period on visits by relatives of the deceased, including those who were killed during the conflicts. Unfortunately, no accord was reached during the reporting period. I strongly urge the sides to favourably consider such "good faith" gestures in the future.

10. I have repeatedly stressed the need to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights for the affected population. Much more decisive efforts are needed in this regard. I regret that my repeated calls for unimpeded access for Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) staff to be able to monitor, report on and address human rights protection concerns for the affected population have not yet yielded a positive response by all participants. I therefore call upon participants in the Geneva international discussions to allow, without further delays, access for OHCHR staff to carry out their work, to allay serious protection concerns about the situation of the affected population and to better assess current human rights needs so as to ensure that existing mechanisms and practices comply with international human rights norms, irrespective of legal or political considerations.

11. Another topic that received sustained attention from all participants was the continued unknown fate of persons who went missing during the conflicts. The understanding shown by all participants of Working Group II for the plight of the families of the missing and the commitments made to engage meaningfully on the issue, in particular by supporting the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross, is commendable. While many humanitarian issues remain unresolved, the Geneva international discussions continue to offer an opportunity for participants to engage on such issues in a constructive manner and liaise with the United Nations humanitarian agencies, funds and programmes.

12. To allow for more informed debates, special information sessions were conducted in conjunction with the formal rounds of the Geneva international discussions, allowing participants to benefit from the experience and advice of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other experts. Participants were given the opportunity to deepen their understanding of, inter alia, managing disaster risk, public health preparedness, freedom of movement and threat perception issues.

13. I am encouraged that during the entire reporting period, in general, the working atmosphere at the Geneva rounds has improved thanks to the efforts of all participants. They have repeatedly expressed their support and commitment to the process. While this is a very encouraging step in the right direction, improving the efficiency of the process is crucial to enhancing stability in the region and to making progress on the security, humanitarian and other remaining challenges. In this context, I fully support the efforts of the Co-Chairs to further stabilize the Geneva process by introducing ground rules with a view to creating a conducive atmosphere for dialogue and problem-solving at the Geneva international discussions. I join all the participants and Co-Chairs in reiterating that the Geneva international discussions remain the only forum for relevant stakeholders to meet and address the issues identified in General Assembly resolution 69/286.

III. Right of return

A. Scope of displacement, return and local integration

14. No major changes were observed during the reporting period with regard to internally displaced persons or refugees exercising their right to return, and no new significant displacements were registered. The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia conducted a comprehensive registration of 262,704 internally displaced persons, as of January 2015. After the main phase of the registration ended on 31 December 2013, the re-registration by the Ministry continued in its central office in Tbilisi until 31 May 2014, with additional persons being registered thereafter as required. The largest numbers of internally displaced persons were registered in Tbilisi and Zugdidi. The generational aspects of displacement in the absence of durable solutions are of concern. According to data from the Ministry's analytical unit, between 2014 and 2016 there was an increase in the number of internally displaced persons from 257,022 to 269,251, primarily as a result of births. Over 18,000 births among internally displaced persons were registered during this period, while almost 8,000 internally displaced persons emigrated from Georgia. Without the return of the internally displaced persons, their number is likely to continue to grow exponentially over time, mirroring the general birth rate growth in Georgia.

15. While progress was made towards the local integration and relocation of internally displaced persons pending their return to areas of habitual residence, an intentions survey was conducted in 2015 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) among the displaced population to establish current perceptions with regard to voluntary return, local settlement or relocation elsewhere within Georgia. More than 2,000 persons among the displaced population were interviewed during the course of data collection, and survey results indicated the strong desires of internally displaced persons to return to their locations of origin only when there are significant changes to the political situation in areas of displacement and where security is ensured.

16. A number of families who were previously commuting between Gali and Zugdidi on a seasonal basis moved back to Gali, but no precise data quantifying such individual returns to the Gali region or other parts of Abkhazia are available. The authorities in control continue to deny the return of ethnic Georgian internally displaced persons to locations of their origins that are outside of the "accepted" return areas in the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts. UNHCR has repeatedly sought assurances from the authorities in control with regard to returnees' rights relating to permanent residence, political rights, equal protection before the law, property ownership, social security, health care, work and employment, education, freedom of thought, conscience and expression, cultural life and freedom of movement. The UNHCR position was presented to the authorities in control in a white paper in 2015.

17. The return of internally displaced persons to South Ossetia has been routinely denied by the authorities in control. Visits to the Akhalgori district are possible, at times, for those displaced from that area. UNHCR continues to observe the regular movement of people in and out of Akhalgori district. The lack of required documentation for crossing continues to impede the movement of and to isolate an estimated 5,000 internally displaced persons from Akhalgori district. Limited numbers

of those displaced — from 2,500 to 3,000 out of an estimated 5,000 applicants — have been issued with documentation (*propusk*), allowing for their presence in Akhalgori and freedom of movement across the administrative boundary line. The main crossing point towards Akhalgori for the exercise of freedom of movement for displaced or conflict-affected populations is the Mosabruni checkpoint, manned by Russian Federation border guards. Those using the crossing point were informed in December 2014 by authorities in control in South Ossetia that the "propusk" document used by them for passage, although expired at the end of 2014, could still be informally used until March 2015, then until July 2015. While the movement across the crossing point for those with documents, including expired "propusk", continues, the issuance of new "propusk" by the authorities in control also continues into 2016. New regulations continue to be foreseen, linked to implementation of the recent so-called "treaty on alliance and integration" with the Russian Federation. Humanitarian actors, including United Nations agencies, are not provided access to South Ossetia by the authorities in control. I call upon all sides to ensure access to humanitarian assistance and aid workers who deliver it.

18. I urge the reversal of a trend that has seen a reduction in the overall number of documents issued each time that the new documentation requirements are introduced, since this has a serious negative impact on freedom of movement. The authorities in control agreed in principle to a case-by-case review of the situation of such persons with a view to considering granting permits for movements across the administrative boundary line, on the basis of lists to be provided by UNHCR. UNHCR has directly intervened with South Ossetian authorities in control, on behalf of a small number of persons who had not been able to obtain the new crossing document. Regrettably, no permits have been issued for these individuals. I call upon all parties involved to reconsider the cases and exercise a transparent and humanitarian approach in granting permits for crossing the administrative boundary line.

19. I regret that the humanitarian assessment mission by UNHCR to South Ossetia, most recently planned for November 2015, has not yet been able to take place. I hope that such a mission will be able to proceed without further delays and I call upon all relevant stakeholders to facilitate the mission.

20. UNHCR remains ready to revive consultations on the return of persons of concern to the Akhalgori district with a view to securing the safe and voluntary nature of any such movement. All stakeholders are encouraged to keep options for return open and to abstain from any restrictive measures. Moreover, further steps are needed to ease the crossing procedures in the area to allow individuals not only to maintain contact and follow developments in their home communities, but also to make a free and informed choice as to whether to return or to integrate in areas of displacement or elsewhere.

21. While more than 100,000 individuals who were displaced during the 2008 conflict have returned to their homes, most of them soon after the conflict, over 20,000 remain in displacement. So-called "borderization" measures along the administrative boundary line continued throughout the reporting period. Six separate monitoring missions by UNHCR identified that although the installation of fences decreased, obstacles to freedom of movement continue to be mounted along the administrative boundary line, including so-called "state border signs", watch posts and surveillance equipment. These measures reportedly enable Russian

Federation border guards to track and potentially detain villagers who intentionally or unintentionally cross the administrative boundary line, for example, when visiting graveyards, retrieving stray cattle, attending to irrigation channels or transiting to and from work in their fields. Findings by UNHCR indicate that the main incidents of detention are related to livelihood activities, including use of land for livestock grazing, agriculture and gathering food in forest areas. I am pleased that the meetings of the Joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Ergneti have in some instances helped in negotiating the quick release of arrested villagers in such cases, and I call upon all entities to show humanitarian consideration for local villagers engaging in traditional livelihood activities.

22. The primary remaining protection and reintegration challenges relate to shelter rehabilitation needs and limited livelihood opportunities. The inability to freely access fields, orchards, traditional grazing grounds, forests and markets has reduced income and employment opportunities and further limited communication and relations between families living on opposite sides. The fencing measures along the administrative boundary line exacerbated the already difficult living conditions of internally displaced persons and persons who are not internally displaced, including and in particular in the mountain regions of Georgia, characterized by a lack of access to services owing to isolation and lack of information. The previously existing societal structures of the villages have disintegrated and villages are emptying, with only a few elderly occupants remaining year-round in many locations. To mitigate the most harmful impact on the survival mechanisms and livelihoods of the population, the interim commission established by the Government of Georgia to address the needs of affected communities in villages along the administrative boundary line has also mobilized State funds for investment in villages affected by fencing to develop irrigation and drinking water, road, education, agricultural, shelter, heating and health infrastructure. Substantial progress has been made in the implementation of these measures, especially the provision of gas to villages along the administrative boundary line. Such activities continue in 2016.

23. The Government of Georgia has taken a number of measures in the areas of the creation of conditions for dignified and safe return and the improvement of the socioeconomic conditions of internally displaced persons, serving their integration. Support for the livelihoods of internally displaced persons received enhanced attention from the Government and its partners through the development of strategies and action plans. Concerted efforts by the Government to actively solicit the support of all stakeholders to improve the livelihoods of internally displaced persons were launched in 2015 in the form of a legal entity of public law established under the livelihoods action plan.

24. Georgian national legislation governing the treatment of internally displaced persons, effective as of 1 March 2014, has clarified a number of issues and enhanced the protection of this population against discrimination equally targeting different groups of this community. I reiterate that the rights of all internally displaced persons, as defined in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, must be respected and protected in law and in practice.

25. Relocations and related evictions conducted in the context of the Government's efforts to provide internally displaced families with durable housing solutions have in the past caused grievances among internally displaced persons.

Following advocacy from UNHCR and other actors, the Government has adjusted its approach. It is now offering more housing solutions in urban and economic centres and is trying to avoid relocations from urban areas to more remote locations. The level of dissatisfaction among internally displaced persons regarding housing offered to them has thus considerably decreased as a result of improved legislation regulating the provision of housing. However, as observed by UNHCR, there are still concerns about the selection process for recipients, who are not always the most in need among the displaced population. Continued development of the hotline for internally displaced persons to reach ministry officials using low-cost Internet-based call-in-phone technology, and the addition of Internet chat and complaints mechanism components, supported by UNHCR, has been implemented at the Ministry. This allows internally displaced persons in remote locations to directly reach ministry officials without having to travel to Tbilisi, to express their concerns and resolve problems. Other efforts, such as continued privatization, the provision of ownership of housing units to 9,318 internally displaced persons during the past year and rural housing projects, which combine the provision of shelter with agricultural land, have expanded the housing options. However, considering the total needs, durable housing solutions remain limited. In that regard, alternative solutions deserve consideration. The Government's procedures, developed with a view to enhancing the transparency of the selection and allocation process and the rights of internally displaced persons were generally respected, but remain too complex to yield substantial results in an acceptable time frame.

26. Given the scale of the displacement, substantial challenges concerning the integration of internally displaced persons remain. The Government of Georgia assessed (subject to inflation and exchange rate fluctuations) that around $750 million would still be required to meet the remaining housing needs of internally displaced persons. This is the estimated cost of providing around 50,000 families with various types of accommodation. Despite Government efforts to provide alternative accommodation to internally displaced persons living in dilapidated collective centres, significant needs remain. In addition, the living conditions of internally displaced persons who reside in private accommodation are often as bad as or even less favourable than those of persons residing in collective centres. Moreover, internally displaced persons living in private accommodation lack housing security and often move because of economic instability.

27. The provision of durable housing, while essential, is not the only aspect of integration. Socioeconomic aspects, such as sustainable livelihoods and access to quality education, medical and social services, must be addressed also. While the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, together with donors and other stakeholders, remain engaged and continue to assist the Government in protecting and ensuring the rights of the affected populations, acute humanitarian crises in other parts of the world have had a negative impact on the funding level for humanitarian projects in Georgia. Moreover, further progress in integrating and improving the living conditions of internally displaced persons is becoming less a question of humanitarian response and more a matter of mainstreaming their interests into broader development efforts. As time passes, the needs of internally displaced persons that do not relate to shelter are increasingly similar to or the same as those of the poorer segments of the population not directly affected by displacement. While the adoption of a livelihood strategy for internally displaced persons is a welcome development, it is now crucial and urgent that the

socioeconomic needs of internally displaced persons be addressed alongside those of the local population within the context of national and regional development agendas. The costs of meeting the needs of underdeveloped and impoverished regions are substantial and require increased State budget allocations, as well as donor support, to make a difference that is felt by the population.

28. I would encourage the authorities to ensure that regions hosting displaced populations and internally displaced persons themselves are able to fully benefit from development programmes. In this respect, and in order to bridge the gap between humanitarian response and development activities, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNHCR continued their joint programme aimed at improving the livelihoods of internally displaced persons and returnees in Shida Kartli, as well as conflict-affected communities in Abkhazia.

29. It is estimated that over 45,000 people have already spontaneously returned to their homes in the Gali district. Progress has been made in their reintegration process, although important needs and protection challenges remain. An analysis of the key protection needs of the most vulnerable among the returnee population resulted in the discontinuation of UNHCR material assistance provided previously, including kitchen sets, household items and other materials, and the expansion of cash-based assistance programmes. While at least 1,000 to 1,500 of the most vulnerable returnee families remain in urgent need of assistance, shelter programmes in Abkhazia have come to a halt, with the exception of one programme of the Danish Refugee Council, following the decision by UNHCR to discontinue shelter support for returnees in 2013 owing to a lack of resources. Among those still displaced, the majority informed UNHCR that one of the most important preconditions for return is shelter assistance. The absence of substantial shelter programmes in Abkhazia is thus a strong disincentive to return. Those who spontaneously returned to Abkhazia are still officially considered internally displaced persons by the Government of Georgia and, as such, are eligible for assistance.

30. Concerns regarding limitations on basic rights, including freedom of movement, increased as a result of two new so-called "laws": the "Law on Legal Status of Foreigners" and the "Law on Procedures of Exit from the Republic of Abkhazia and the Entry into the Republic of Abkhazia", both of which were promulgated by the Abkhaz authorities in control in December 2015, with most provisions coming into force in April 2016. Similar "laws" were also introduced by the authorities in control in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. These provide for the issuance of documentation to displaced populations, who are thereby designated as "foreign" or "stateless". Where documentation recognizing the legal presence and rights of the Gali district population in Abkhazia and others is generally lacking, the creation of opportunities to obtain documents from the Abkhaz authorities in control is important. However, the designation of a population having resided in Abkhazia for multiple generations as "foreigners", lack of access to political, property, social security and other rights, risk of expulsion for a broad range of perceived transgressions and limited duration and renewal requirements all raise concerns. In the context of freedom of movement, the lack of recognized documents, the continuing "borderization" process and the closure of entry and exit points at Lekukhona/Alekumkhara and Tagiloni/Taglan further restricted the ability of the population in Abkhazia to travel across the administrative boundary line. Those who do hold documentation that allows for their freedom of movement face increasingly

long wait times and substantial traffic congestion as a result of closures. For those who have returned, access to documentation providing a recognized right to reside in Abkhazia and providing for freedom of movement across the Inguri River is a significant concern and priority.

31. Seasonal movements related to agricultural activities, as well as family visits, continued to be observed. Such movements to Abkhazia took place primarily across the administrative boundary line, but also directly from the Russian Federation. While more precise and comprehensive independently verified data on the numbers and profiles of the returnees and on the other conflict-affected communities residing in the Gali district are not available, I call upon the relevant sides to take further steps to clarify and acknowledge the number of returnees and to ensure freedom of movement and residence, property, social and political rights for the returnee and displaced populations. I encourage all participants in the Geneva international discussions to maximize the use of this forum for the provision and exchange of updated data related to displacement and progress made towards return.

32. During the reporting period, more active engagement of the authorities in control with the returnee population in Gali, as well as with agencies operating in Abkhazia, was notable, including an agreement to expand access and the scope of work to areas beyond Gali, as well as daily interaction. At the same time, and while the political debate about the future status of the returnee population in Abkhazia continues, the returnee population remains concerned about its freedom of movement. With efforts under way intended to address status and documentation issues that would appear to facilitate movement, it is important that these materialize in a timely and predictable manner to enhance confidence and preserve mobility across the administrative boundary line. Nevertheless, a number of developments had a positive impact on the humanitarian and security situation of the population in the Gali region and on the reintegration prospects of those who have returned. These included a variety of infrastructure and livelihood initiatives financed by the international community during the reporting period, including the construction of 47 new houses and the rehabilitation of 30 existing houses, repairs to the hospitals in Saberio and Gali town and the construction in Gali of a special playground for children living with disabilities. Small community infrastructure projects, including the partial rehabilitation of 12 houses in Gali district, a bridge in Ganakhleba village, two medical points in Primorsk and Dikhazurga villages and two schools in Pichori and Lekukhona villages, were implemented.

33. Progress was observed in relation to the security of the local Gali population. The practice of extortion was further reduced, and a major anti-kidnapping for ransom response was implemented by Russian security forces and the so-called Abkhaz "security forces", resulting in the suppression of major criminal gang elements. In pursuing gang members implicated in kidnapping, security forces regrettably suffered casualties during operations in Gali, which also resulted in the death of four criminals. Criminality targeting people with money in cash or cash crops, such as hazelnut harvests, or people who are known to have well-to-do relatives in Georgia or abroad, is decreasing. The so-called "treaty on alliance and strategic partnership" provides for "joint Russian-Abkhaz security forces for collective defence", "joint law enforcement structures for fighting crime" and a broad range of measures for further integration into the Russian economic, social protection and health-care systems, funded by the Russian Federation. Returnees fear that this "treaty" may result in further restrictions and control of movement

along the Inguri River, with a potential reduction of official crossings, expanded "borderization" efforts and increased presence and control of security forces. At the beginning of March 2016, the authorities in control decided to close two crossing points along the Inguri River and expressed their intention to close two more after the rehabilitation of the roads in Gali district along the administrative boundary line. I urge that such changes do not take place, and should be reconsidered and avoided in the future. The remaining three crossing points together, with that of the central Inguri Bridge, which also serves as a crossing for vehicles, have assured relatively orderly crossing for the local population.

34. Additional protection and reintegration challenges remain. While generally acknowledging some progress and expressing appreciation for the assistance received, the local population does not yet consider the situation to be "fully normalized" and a sense of insecurity still prevails. Remaining protection concerns expressed by the returnees relate to: (a) freedom of movement, in particular the longer-term perspective, as messages received are perceived as not always being consistent; (b) documentation required to exercise freedom of movement, enjoy rights and gain access to services; (c) access to education, including higher education, and language of instruction; (d) secure access to quality health-care facilities (on both sides of the administrative boundary line); (e) occasional incidents of discrimination, including those related to documentation and access to services; and (f) denial of effective protection against crime and adequate response to sexual and gender-based violence. A significant segment of the population in Gali, Tkvarcheli and Ochamchira districts has no valid documentation. The non-issuance of documentation has resulted in a substantial negative impact on children whose parents were not able to obtain birth certificates for them because of a lack of supporting documents.

35. Since the conflict in August 2008, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes have had very little operational access to the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, and are therefore not in a position to verify or closely monitor displacement or return movements, nor indeed the humanitarian needs or the human rights of returnees or host populations. However, in preparation for the rounds of the Geneva international discussions, the co-chairs and United Nations staff were able to visit the region and familiarize themselves with the latest developments.

36. Information made available to UNHCR by the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation indicates that, as of 1 January 2015, 65 persons (belonging to 56 families) from Georgia enjoy refugee status in the Russian Federation. An additional 472 persons (belonging to 340 families) from Georgia, including from Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, currently hold temporary asylum status in the Russian Federation. The actual number of persons displaced from Georgia residing in the Russian Federation is considered to be higher, as many are not reflected in the official statistics, having regularized their residence status outside of refugee protection mechanisms or having lost refugee status upon acquisition of Russian citizenship.

B. Institutional framework and operational measures

37. In 2005, UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, in consultation

with all stakeholders, launched an initiative entitled "Strategic directions: promoting confidence-building measures for displaced and war-affected persons in Abkhazia". The initiative was aimed at supporting a bottom-up peacebuilding approach on the basis of self-reliance and community involvement. "Strategic directions" integrates protection and assistance efforts through monitoring the situation of returnees, addressing their concerns in discussions with the relevant authorities and providing targeted assistance. Since April 2009, the initiative has been complemented by a strategic framework for continued assistance, which seeks to achieve durable solutions for returnees through integrated protection and assistance activities and promotion of their rights, with a view to preventing renewed displacement of the population in the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts. The initial focus on returnees has over the years been replaced by strategies and actions targeting all vulnerable populations in Abkhazia. Such efforts bring together as strategic partners, under the overall coordination of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNHCR, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, international NGOs, namely, Action against Hunger, the Danish Refugee Council, Première urgence and World Vision International, as well as some additional humanitarian actors in an observer capacity. The UNDP/UNHCR joint programme on agricultural livelihoods in Shida Kartli and Abkhazia contributed to a more durable solution for internally displaced persons and returnees.

38. In July 2010, the Government complemented its "State strategy on occupied territories: engagement through cooperation" (adopted by Order N107 of 27 January 2010), with the "Action plan for engagement" (adopted by Order N885 of 3 July 2010, amended on 26 January 2011). The plan envisages the undertaking of a number of steps aimed at building trust and confidence among divided communities. Those measures were followed in October 2010 by the issuance of the "Regulation of the Government of Georgia on the approval of modalities for conducting activities in the occupied territories of Georgia". In that context, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes will continue to engage in humanitarian action on the basis of their respective mandates and within the framework of multilateral and bilateral agreements governing the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.

39. I have previously informed the General Assembly of the declared intention of the Government of Georgia to pursue a more open form of engagement. However, ambiguities in the current legislation and between the "Law on Occupied Territories" and the "State strategy on occupied territories" complicate the operational environment for international and local actors involved in humanitarian, peacebuilding and other activities and constrain the development of an enabling environment for more direct interaction.

40. The status-neutral liaison mechanism, established by UNDP in 2012 (see A/64/819, para. 13, and A/65/846, para. 21) continued to operate during the reporting period, including in facilitating the delivery of vaccines, medicine and other forms of humanitarian assistance to Abkhazia. This has proven to be a valuable tool not only in supporting the implementation of humanitarian projects, but also in connecting and facilitating dialogue between the divided communities. The effectiveness of the mechanism is based in large part on the acceptance and support by all sides for its status-neutral and human rights-based approach.

41. During the reporting period, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes continued to respond to humanitarian needs. UNICEF continued to support improving access for vulnerable mothers, children and youth throughout Abkhazia to quality health-care, education and social services. In particular, UNICEF continued to support the routine immunization programme and, together with UNDP, provided equipment to medical institutions and organized training for medical professionals in the fields of maternal and child health care (such as antenatal and postnatal care and integrated management of child illnesses), HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, oncology, healthful lifestyles and emergency medical care, as well as information technology skills. UNICEF further provided rural medical points with basic equipment and training, and carried out hygiene and immunization promotion and education activities in rural schools. In cooperation with World Vision International and local partners, UNICEF also continued to support basic social services for children living with disabilities and their families. UNICEF also started a training programme for teachers in Abkhazia on student-centred teaching methodologies and continued to support youth participation and development, as well as confidence-building, through 36 youth clubs throughout the conflict-affected regions of Abkhazia, Samegrelo and Shida Kartli.

42. Over the past year, UNDP paid special attention to youth in returnee communities and their connectivity to various international educational sources. In collaboration with local NGOs working on youth activities, a UNDP-created network of seven computer-based training centres offered access to information technology and training to more than 1,100 local beneficiaries. Young students were offered internationally recognized information technology certifications and English language classes with certification, which enabled them to access graduate and postgraduate education abroad.

43. UNHCR, in partnership with local and international NGOs, continued to address obstacles to sustainable return by providing a limited number of individual cash grants to vulnerable families, legal advice and counselling in relation to documentation issues and access to rights and services. Moreover, efforts to strengthen the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence were undertaken through medical, legal and psychosocial counselling and awareness-raising campaigns.

44. The issue of freedom of movement across the administrative boundary line has security, humanitarian and human rights dimensions and remains of utmost importance to the local population. Developments during the reporting period were marked by two trends: enhanced control and limitation, and formalization of crossings. So-called "borderization" measures, including the announced closure of two crossing points, blockage of footpaths, increased and more systematic surveillance by Russian Federation border guards and strict fining practices, were reported. On the other hand, the local population was in principle able to continue to move across the Inguri Bridge. As referred to in paragraph 33 above, four crossing points are operational and two are about to be closed. The four crossing points are in the following locations in the lower and upper Gali region: (a) Otobaia-2, (b) Nabakevi/Nabakia, (c) Saberio/Papinrkhua and (d) the main one at Inguri Bridge. Lekukhona/Alekumkhara and Tagiloni/Taglan are to be closed. The crossing points are operational from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day and multiple documents are allowed to be used by those who are crossing. I encourage all steps which would

facilitate the freedom of movement and freedom of travel of all segments of the local population and allow their movement and travels in safety and dignity.

45. I have taken note of encouraging information that ambulance services continue to be allowed across the administrative boundary line, according to which pragmatic practice has been established to the effect that when medical transportation is needed, patients are being brought by one ambulance to the Inguri Bridge crossing point and then picked up by another ambulance transporting them further on the other side. In many cases, the Joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism hotline was used to inform those on both sides about the need for medical transportation. Although limited in scope and effect, the ambulance services are a testimony to good cooperation in jointly addressing humanitarian concerns.

46. Persons in need should be able to gain access to medical attention wherever it can be offered as quickly as possible and at the highest attainable standard. I call upon all stakeholders to exercise maximum care and flexibility in this regard and improve the conditions for the crossings, including through the introduction of a fast-track procedure for the vulnerable and the rehabilitation of deteriorating conditions on Inguri Bridge.

47. The local population in the Gali district, including returnees, remains concerned about its freedom of movement, its continued contact with family members and friends residing on the other side of the Inguri River and its access to social infrastructure, including medical facilities and markets in the Zugdidi district. The development and implementation of a crossing regime that allays those concerns remains crucial for improving the living conditions of the local population, advancing the reintegration of returnees and preventing renewed displacement. In that context, it is essential to identify and implement solutions for the provision of documentation in conformity with international law, including international human rights law, and the principles governing the prevention and reduction of statelessness. I urge the relevant authorities to take pragmatic steps to solve this reoccurring problem without delay and allow children to cross at convenient and safe locations.

48. The principles and factors governing the implementation of the return of internally displaced persons outlined in my report of 24 August 2009 (A/63/950), particularly in paragraphs 8 to 14 thereof, remain valid. There is a complex nexus between the individual right to voluntary, safe and dignified return and the establishment of the conditions conducive to such return. The individual's right of return, in the case of an internally displaced person, derives from his or her right to freedom of movement as stipulated in article 12, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, in relation to a refugee, from article 12, paragraph 4, of the Covenant, according to which "no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country". In accordance with article 12, paragraph 3, of the Covenant, the freedom of movement, as established in article 12, paragraphs 1 and 2, can only be subject to restrictions "which are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (*ordre public*), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others, and are consistent with the other rights" recognized in the Covenant. Progress made with respect to integration, locally or by resettlement, does not result in a loss of the right of return.

49. I reiterate that the right of return and its exercise by an internally displaced person cannot therefore be directly linked to political questions or the conclusion of

peace agreements. It is essential to recognize return as both a human right and a humanitarian issue that must be addressed irrespective of any solution to an underlying conflict. At the same time, it is primarily for the individual to assess the risks and make an informed choice as to whether or not to return at a given time. In doing so, a displaced person must be able to take into account all factors that could affect his or her safety, dignity and ability to exercise basic human rights.

50. The United Nations is committed to assisting States in the search for durable solutions for displaced populations, and its engagement is based on the understanding that voluntary return in safety and dignity is one durable solution, the other two being local integration and resettlement. The role of the United Nations in the facilitation, design and implementation of organized return operations must be guided by the need to avoid causing harm or contributing to the exposure of persons of concern to possible human rights violations. Therefore, activities related to organized returns must be based on a careful risk assessment, taking into consideration the existing security and human rights conditions and concerns, access to livelihoods and basic services and the voluntary nature of return. Unhindered humanitarian access and the ability of the United Nations and its mandated agencies, funds and programmes to effectively monitor all these factors is another aspect to be taken into account.

IV. Prohibition of forced demographic changes

51. Relevant international human rights standards should guide managed population movements, including evacuations, and thereby strictly limit forced movements, including those that result in demographic change. The principles and provisions of international law mentioned in my previous report (see A/69/909, para. 49), as well as non-refoulement obligations governing the protection of refugees and others who flee their homes as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict or situations of generalized violence, remain fully applicable.

52. While no major new displacement was observed during the reporting period, the demographic consequences of earlier displacement remain. In that context, I would like to recall once again the observations of my former representative on the human rights of internally displaced persons in his report of 14 January 2010 (A/HRC/13/21/Add.3 and Corr.1 and 2, paras. 7-14) and referred to in my report of 17 June 2010 (A/64/819, paras. 22 and 23).

V. Humanitarian access

A. International legal foundations governing humanitarian access

53. The need to establish and maintain humanitarian space is essential in order to effectively meet the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected and displaced populations, to mitigate suffering and to enable United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to exercise their mandates. In that context, it remains important that all sides respect their obligations and act in good faith to fully implement the principle of humanitarian access, which is rooted in international humanitarian and human rights law. The free passage of relief goods and the facilitation of humanitarian operations are correlated to a number of human rights, including the right to life, the

right to a decent standard of living and the right to protection against discrimination. Moreover, building on the practice of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, there is growing acceptance that the obligation of States to respect, protect and fulfil human rights includes an obligation to invite, accept and facilitate international (humanitarian) assistance, in particular if the State's resource capacities or other obstacles, such as a lack of effective control of parts of the territory, limit its capacity to effectively address all humanitarian needs.

54. In the context of international conflict situations, international humanitarian law requires the establishment of conditions for the rapid and unimpeded passage of all relief consignments, equipment and personnel. In non-international conflicts, States must organize relief actions for the civilian population, without any adverse distinction. The universal acceptance of those rules has established, as a norm of customary law in both international and non-international conflicts, that parties to a conflict must allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need. I would further request that arrangements pertaining to relief personnel be simplified to the greatest extent possible.

B. Operational challenges

55. Following the amendments introduced to the "Law on Occupied Territories", after taking into consideration recommendations issued by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) of the Council of Europe in October 2010, the Government of Georgia issued the "Regulation of the Government of Georgia on the approval of modalities for conducting activities in the occupied territories of Georgia", which, inter alia, serves as the guideline for the implementation of the Law. During the reporting period, the issuance of the modalities had no impact on the activities of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. However, in the light of the ambiguity of some provisions of the modalities, allowing for a significant degree of discretion and potential arbitrariness, a further review, and possible reform, of those norms by the Government would be welcomed. Such a review should fully take into account the international legal foundations governing humanitarian access, as outlined above, and the practical concerns of humanitarian and development actors operating on the ground.

56. The United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were able to implement protection, humanitarian assistance, recovery and development activities in Abkhazia as planned. However, the recently introduced restrictions for local staff of international organizations, including United Nations agencies, to obtain permits for crossing the administrative boundary line from the authorities in control in Abkhazia inhibit such humanitarian movements. In addition, ongoing humanitarian needs notwithstanding, it is widely recognized, including by the international donor community, that needs have increasingly shifted from humanitarian assistance towards early recovery activities and to the delivery of more sustainable support. The United Nations Resident Coordinator is facilitating an inclusive dialogue on this matter among international donors and with relevant authorities.

57. On 30 January 2015, the authorities in control in Abkhazia communicated formally their agreement to allow the work of all international and non-governmental organizations within Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts and of United Nations agencies without geographical restrictions. The communication

superseded the letter of 28 January 2013 to several agencies requesting a focus of activities on Gali district. The current flexible approach of the authorities in control, which allows agencies to contribute to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in all areas of Abkhazia, is in line with international standards for the work of international agencies and should be continued.

58. However, since May 2015, the authorities in control in Abkhazia have introduced procedures obliging the international and national staff of United Nations agencies and international NGOs in Abkhazia to undergo interviews with the Abkhaz "security service" before crossing the administrative boundary line. This practice has limited the operational flexibility of United Nations agencies and international NGOs in Abkhazia, adding to already existing operational difficulties caused by the fact that national staff of United Nations agencies and international NGOs are not allowed access to Abkhazia. I call upon all relevant parties to ensure unimpeded access for all United Nations agencies and international NGOs.

59. Given the need for a proper transition from humanitarian assistance through recovery to longer-term sustainable development, it is important to avoid gaps in the transition process and ensure that the remaining humanitarian needs, as well as contingency considerations, are fully met. In this regard, I reiterate my call for respect for the international principles governing humanitarian access, including the unhindered movement of the personnel of international organizations, for flexibility and for practical approaches and measures to be taken by all stakeholders therein. In addition, consultations must continue among all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure the flow of up-to-date information on the humanitarian needs of the population and to improve coordination.

60. During the reporting period, discussions were renewed on possible humanitarian access for the United Nations to the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. During several visits to Tskhinvali and the surrounding areas, the United Nations Representative and the other Co-Chairs of the Geneva international discussions were able to witness further progress on a number of ongoing humanitarian, infrastructure and reconstruction initiatives, including water projects undertaken by OSCE and road construction, which has helped to reduce by more than half the travel time between Tskhinvali and the Akhalgori valley. I also take note of some positive efforts to preserve or prevent further alteration and decay of cultural heritage and to prevent the removal of artefacts from the region, including through an agreement by the participants in the Geneva international discussions to work jointly on the issue. United Nations proposals to build on previous humanitarian activities on the ground, however, have not materialized. Access for the United Nations humanitarian agencies has not been possible owing to the continuing lack of agreement on the modalities governing access. The insistence by the authorities in control that such agencies must enter solely from the territory of the Russian Federation is unnecessary, costly and inconsistent with humanitarian practice. At the same time, the International Committee of the Red Cross continued to implement a number of projects throughout the area, and a number of complementary medical activities are being explored by NGOs.

VI. Property rights of refugees and internally displaced persons

61. Property-related issues remained on the agenda of Working Group II of the Geneva international discussions. Obstacles to resolving those issues, as well as my call for all parties to adhere to the principles on housing and property restitution for refugees and displaced persons (referred to as the "Pinheiro principles") and the underlying norms of international law, including international human rights law, as outlined in my report of 20 May 2013 (see A/67/869, paras. 58-60), remain valid.

VII. Timetable for the voluntary return of all refugees and internally displaced persons and work towards durable solutions

62. No agreement or timetable for the voluntary return of all refugees and internally displaced persons has been developed, given the prevailing environment and continued discussions among the parties. Working Group II of the Geneva international discussions could not deal with the issue of voluntary return owing to the continued unwillingness of some participants to discuss the matter. I reiterate that as long as the conditions for organized returns in safety and dignity are not fulfilled and mechanisms for property restitution are not established, the design of a comprehensive timetable or road map for returns must remain an open matter to be addressed. Those challenges should not prevent the parties from working towards identifying durable solutions for all displaced persons, giving particular attention to the implementation of the right of return. I would like to reiterate my call for all participants in the Geneva international discussions to engage constructively on this issue, relying on international law and relevant principles.

63. In the absence of conditions conducive to organized return and appropriate implementation mechanisms, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes will continue to concentrate their efforts on providing the conflict-affected populations, including returnees or persons in the process of returning, with assistance and support for their reintegration. The United Nations agencies, funds and programmes remain committed to proceeding at the appropriate time, in consultation and cooperation with all parties concerned, with the development of a timetable or road map addressing all components outlined in my report (A/63/950).

VIII. Conclusion

64. Over the past seven and a half years, the Geneva international discussions, co-chaired by the European Union, OSCE and the United Nations, have remained the single forum for the key stakeholders to discuss security and stability, and humanitarian issues, in particular those relating to the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. These efforts, together with humanitarian engagement by a variety of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other actors, have contributed to some improvements in the security and humanitarian situation on the ground, but unfortunately have not resulted in conditions conducive to the return of displaced populations.

65. Many security, humanitarian, human rights and development challenges remain unresolved. Despite the difficult nature of the discussions, the complexity of the issues and divergence in the positions, the participants in the discussions have continued to engage on a regular basis. In cooperation with partner organizations, the United Nations has facilitated information sessions on relevant best practices and lessons learned, which have helped to enrich the formal sessions of the Geneva international discussions. The United Nations stands ready to continue to support such information sharing along with further humanitarian and development engagement on the ground.

66. Continued and more constructive efforts, including the greater willingness of key stakeholders, are needed to reach an agreement on additional practical steps to further strengthen the security situation and meet the pressing humanitarian concerns of the affected population, including internally displaced persons. I am pleased that a tentative agreement has been reached to resume the work of the Gali Joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism. While I am encouraged by their full commitment to the process, I once again call upon all participants to uphold their engagement in the Geneva international discussions and preserve and expand humanitarian space. I also urge donors to continue and strengthen their support for the multifaceted humanitarian, development and confidence-building efforts.

United Nations A/70/880

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 May 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 107
International drug control

Letter dated 10 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information on the main directions of anti-drug policies and their implementation in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2015 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107.

(*Signed*) Muzaffar **Madrakhimov**

16-07917 (E) 180516 190516

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Annex to the letter dated 10 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

The main areas of drug control policy and their implementation in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2015

The Republic of Uzbekistan attaches considerable importance to drug demand and supply reduction activities, which are carried out in accordance with the drug control strategy set out in the programme of comprehensive measures to combat drug abuse and drug trafficking for the period 2011-2015. Attention was paid to improving the regulatory framework governing the trade in narcotic substances and the provision of drug addiction treatment, and to building the logistical and human resources capacities of special law enforcement units and addiction treatment services.

In view of the results achieved and evolving drug trends, a similar programme was prepared for 2016-2020 to ensure that State and civil society organizations continue implementing coordinated organizational, legal and practical measures to effectively prevent, identify and suppress illicit trafficking.

I. Combating illicit drug trafficking

In 2015, the law enforcement agencies of Uzbekistan focused on impeding drug trafficking, particularly by blocking the channels through which drugs illegally enter or transit through the country and by eliminating established organized criminal groups.

As a result of the organizational, practical, operational and preventive measures taken by the law enforcement agencies, 6,648 drug trafficking crimes were identified in 2015 (6,698 in 2014).

Of the total number of drug-related crimes identified, 3,017 involved drug sales (3,062 in 2014), 709 involved smuggling (607 in 2014), 1,301 involved the illegal cultivation of narcotic plants (1,320 in 2014) and 1,621 were other drug-related crimes (1,709 in 2014).

A total of 2 tons and 510 kg of trafficked narcotic substances were seized (2 tons and 298 kg in 2014), including 147.9 kg of heroin (106.5 kg in 2014), 882.3 kg of opium (881.9 kg in 2014), 1,025.1 kg of marijuana (802.9 kg in 2014), 250.2 kg of hashish (100 kg in 2014), 204.7 kg of koknar (406.4 kg in 2014) and 7,184 tablets of psychotropic substances (18,596 in 2014).

A two-stage integrated large-scale operation known as Black Poppy 2015 was conducted by the law enforcement agencies of Uzbekistan, with the participation of local government and community representatives, in order to effectively eliminate drug trafficking, identify and suppress the illegal cultivation of narcotic plants and prevent drug trafficking crimes.

Some 10,000 internal affairs officers and over 5,000 local government and community representatives were involved in the operation. During the operation

2,687 drug-related crimes were detected (2,900 in 2014) and 621 kg of narcotic substances were seized (852 kg in 2014), including 761 grams of heroin (111 grams in 2014), 28.8 kg of opium (13.8 kg in 2014), 8.1 kg of hashish (12.7 kg in 2014), 437.4 kg of marijuana (461.8 kg in 2014), 145.5 kg of koknar (363.8 kg in 2014) and 88 grams of psychotropic substances (33 grams in 2014).

II. Combating new types of psychoactive substances

A global trend witnessed over the last few years has been the spread of new types of psychoactive substances (spice smoking blends and other synthetic cannabinoids) as substitutes for traditional narcotic drugs.

The National Information and Analytical Centre for Drug Control (NIACDC) has set up a unit, comprising representatives of the competent authorities in Uzbekistan, to develop preventive measures and proposals in order to counter the new types of narcotic substances.

As a result of work done by the unit to pre-empt the spread of new types of narcotic substances, amendments were introduced to national legislation restricting their trade. In particular, Decision No. 330 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 12 November 2015 (on enhancing procedures for the import, export and transit through the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, and trade controls for them) approved an updated list of narcotic drugs banned in the country, together with an additional 80 names of new types of synthetic narcotic substances.

III. Drug abuse: extent, patterns and trends

Data analysis shows an ongoing positive trend in key indicators of the drug situation in Uzbekistan. There was a fall in the national average rate of primary morbidity related to drug addiction, the number of registered drug addicts decreased and the number of intravenous drug users continued to decline.

IV. Prevention of drug addiction

In order to enhance prevention work, the addiction treatment and adolescent psychopathology faculty of the Tashkent Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education developed lecture materials in the Uzbek and Russian languages for primary drug prevention among adolescents and young people, the parents of students (at schools, colleges and universities) and teachers. The lecture materials were made available to the organizational and policy divisions of addiction treatment clinics for use in their work.

In 2015, doctors specializing in drug abuse treatment delivered 6,947 lectures, held 2,338 workshops and issued 632 media publications for various population groups.

Within the public education system, advocacy groups (from among 412 qualified teachers) are constantly engaged in community outreach work

alongside health-care, internal affairs and civil society representatives, including on drug addiction prevention.

Within the system of secondary specialized vocational education institutions, the Institute for Advanced Training and Retraining regularly held lectures for the directors and deputy directors of those institutions regarding their outreach work and "enhancing the effectiveness of measures to prevent pupils and teachers from committing drug-related crimes and abusing psychotropic substances".

Counter-narcotics issues were regularly covered in the print media and addressed in television and radio broadcasts in order to widen public awareness.

A competition was organized for young directors to make short films on the dangers of drug abuse, for which 44 artistic works were produced. The best short films from the competition were broadcast on mainstream television channels. The National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan was commissioned by the State Commission on Drug Control to produce a documentary film called "Spice" about the threat from the spread of new synthetic narcotic drugs. The film was shown on mainstream television channels and is intended for use in various preventive measures.

"We are against drugs" concerts were held in the capital city and in provincial centres, with direct participation by the regional commissions on drug control of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the provincial khokimiyats (governing bodies).

V. Capacity-building for addiction treatment services

Work was carried out to improve the facilities at addiction treatment institutions.

The construction of an in-patient department building was completed at the provincial addiction treatment clinic in Fergana, while an outpatient department was built at the provincial addiction treatment clinic in Bukhara. The Navoiy and Jizzakh provincial addiction treatment clinics were relocated to fully equipped buildings that meet the requirements, and the laboratories at the Namangan and Bukhara provincial addiction treatment clinics were equipped with biochemical analysers.

To enhance the quality of drug treatment, the Ministry of Health developed and adopted Order No. 187 of 4 May 2015 on standards for the diagnosis, treatment and medical and social rehabilitation of drug-addicted patients.

VI. International cooperation

In 2015, Uzbekistan continued efforts to comply with its international treaty obligations for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the area of drug control.

In coordination with NIACDC, activities were conducted to enhance the legal framework and to build the logistical and human resources capacities of authorized bodies. International organizations and partner countries provided support in updating technical equipment and in upgrading the skills of the competent national authorities.

As part of Uzbek-United States cooperation, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between NIACDC and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration on 9 July 2015. The document intends to improve drug control coordination between Uzbekistan and the United States by holding special training sessions, supplying the necessary equipment and sharing information.

Cooperation continued in the context of implementing amendments to the 2001 intergovernmental agreement between Uzbekistan and the United States of America on assistance in the field of drug control and enforcement. In particular, the facilities of the State Customs Committee were upgraded by providing the central customs laboratory with technical equipment to study narcotic, organic and psychotropic substances, precursors, polymers and other compounds.

In order to enhance bilateral cooperation, collaboration was established with the office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation to organize preventive measures that take national and foreign experience into account. As a result, German specialists and representatives of Uzbek ministries and departments participated in conferences on countering the spread of narcotic drugs, including new types of those drugs, held on 14 May 2015 and 14 September 2015.

During the first conference, a cooperation agreement was signed between NIACDC and the Uzbek office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on bilateral cooperation for activities aimed at studying and disseminating national and international experiences of drug control and prevention.

The competent authorities in Uzbekistan also cooperated on combating illicit drug trafficking in multilateral formats.

In order to implement the agreement between States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors of 17 June 2004, the activities of that Organization's working groups of experts were coordinated.

As part of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project GLO-K01 (Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes), teachers provided instruction on the Families and School Together (FAST) programme at pilot schools in the provinces of Samarkand, Namangan and Tashkent. An evaluation found that, after participating in the programme, there were positive trends in such indicators as cooperation between parents and children, children's behaviour, parental ties to the school and the educational environment.

With support from the project, the Ministry of National Education established a resource centre for strengthening partnerships among families, mahallas (communities) and educational institutions within the public education system. The centre acts as a coordinating unit responsible for promoting family life skills programmes among interested organizations, as well as expanding and monitoring them.

Under the GLO-K01 project, Uzbekistan began an educational programme on strong families for children aged 10 to 14 years. The goal is to prevent adolescent behavioural problems, including drug abuse, and to strengthen parental skills and family relationships.

Under projects belonging to UNODC and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), assistance was provided to competent ministries and departments in combating drug trafficking and preventing drug abuse. Training courses, workshops and training sessions were held to build the capacities of the competent authorities. In 2015, 223 ministerial and departmental officials took part in training events, courses and workshops on countering drug trafficking and drug abuse prevention and treatment.

NIACDC hosted meetings and negotiations for leaders and representatives of the competent authorities of foreign States, as well as staff of international organizations (UNODC, United Nations, OSCE and others). The participants in those meetings discussed current proposals and priorities of mutual concern in their fight against illicit drug trafficking.

United Nations A/70/881*–S/2016/449*

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda items 16, 65, 70 and 72

Culture of peace

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Promotion and protection of human rights

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 16 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to inform you about the Second Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide, which was held in Yerevan on 23 April 2016. Bringing together representatives of international organizations, genocide scholars, parliamentarians, academics and representatives of civil society, the Second Forum, entitled "Living Witnesses of Genocide" focused on forced displacement and relocation leading to premeditated mass killings and extermination. Such acts were common features of the twentieth century genocides. Displacement has been present in different cycles of genocide before and after mass killings. The aftermath of genocide has been marked by refugee crisis and transgenerational trauma among victims. In this context, it is important to assess the historical evolution of the protection of victims of genocide, including refugees, in international humanitarian and human rights law.

The Second Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide was built on the success of the inaugural forum, held in Yerevan on 22 and 23 April 2015, which addressed issues concerning the development of means of prevention of crimes against humanity in international law, the elimination of the consequences of genocide and accountability.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 24 May 2016.

16-07968* (E) 250516

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Armenia has been consistently contributing to the efforts of the international community to advance the prevention of genocide at the international level. As you know, in March 2015, the Human Rights Council of the United Nations adopted a renewed resolution (resolution 28/34) on the prevention of genocide, sponsored by Armenia, which contains important references to new mechanisms and prevention frameworks. Upon the initiative of Armenia, in September 2015, the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 69/323, proclaiming the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, in which it encourages all States, international and regional organizations and individuals to observe the International Day in order to raise awareness of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and its role in combating and preventing the crime of genocide, as well as to commemorate and honour the victims. These resolutions and the Global Forum add to the continued efforts of Armenia to promote consolidated international action against the crime of genocide.

For further details on the Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide please consult the website of the Forum, www.gfyerevan.am/.

I transmit herewith (see annexes) the conclusions in the form of the Declaration and the Final Statement and Recommendations of the First and Second Global Forums against the Crime of Genocide, held in Yerevan in April 2015 and April 2016. I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 16, 65, 70 and 72, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the letter dated 16 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Second Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide
23 April 2016, Yerevan

Final statement and recommendations

The Global Forum

Hails the initiative of the National Assembly and the Government of the Republic of Armenia to host the Second Global Forum in Yerevan on 23 April 2016;

Welcomes the unanimous adoption in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly of its resolution proclaiming 9 December the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, which stresses, inter alia, the necessity to raise awareness regarding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Pays special tribute and expresses gratitude to all those who stood up in the name of humanity, acting with courage and sacrifice and saved multiple innocent lives in the times of humanitarian crises and genocide;

Expresses deep concern with regard to the recent alarming outspread of atrocities and genocidal killings by ISIS and other terrorist groups in the Middle East and other parts of the world, which directly threaten ethnic and religious minorities and produce widespread humanitarian crises, including the highest number of refugees and displaced persons since World War II;

Recognizes that humanitarian crises of this magnitude require synergy of efforts and cannot be addressed by any State singlehandedly, and firmly believes that the humanitarian response in addressing challenges associated with the unprecedented numbers of refugees and displaced persons should by no means become the subject of political manipulations;

Echoes the call of the Yerevan Declaration adopted by the Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide in April 2015, to all States to bring their utmost contribution to the strengthening of genocide prevention mechanisms;

Calls on all States, parliaments, international organizations, civil society and other stakeholders to join efforts in a spirit of renewed commitment to combat the evil of genocide and other crimes against humanity;

Emphasizes the importance and necessity of teaching the history of humankind as well as the causes and consequences of genocide with a view to achieving comprehensive and objective recognition of the crimes of the past;

Recommends that the next Global Forum to focus on the role of education, tools, methods and skills as a part of our shared responsibility to eliminate hatred, intolerance and xenophobia, and *believes* that education and knowledge sharing are critical for the eradication of the scourge of genocide;

Decides to convene the next meeting in April 2018 in the Republic of Armenia.

Annex II to the letter dated 16 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide Yerevan Declaration 23 April 2015

The Global Forum

Paying tribute to the memory of the innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide, the genocides of Greeks and Assyrians, the Holocaust, the genocides in Rwanda, Cambodia, Darfur and other crimes against humanity,

Recalling the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of the United Nations,

Being concerned about the recurring cases of genocides and crimes against humanity, despite the existing appropriate international prevention mechanisms,

Being also concerned about the recent alarming outspread of violence, extremism and terrorism in different regions of the world, directly threatening the ethnic and religious minorities,

Bearing in mind the emergence and the evolution of the international criminalization of genocide in international law,

Having discussed the issues of impunity, individual and State accountability for the crime of genocide, the appropriate means of addressing the consequences of this crime,

Noting the importance of the global struggle against genocides and crimes against humanity,

Emphasizing the role that various governments, parliaments, international organizations and civil society have in the prevention of genocide and their contribution to fostering prevention mechanisms,

- Acknowledges that genocide is the ultimate crime with irreversible consequences, and calls upon all States to bring their utmost contribution to the strengthening of genocide prevention mechanisms,
- Reaffirms that the primary genocide prevention mechanisms remain the ones existing in the framework of the United Nations and welcomes the adoption of a United Nations Human Rights Council resolution on 27 March 2015 entitled "Prevention of genocide",
- Stresses that genocide prevention depends on the efficiency of human rights protection, the strength of the culture of tolerance and non-discrimination,
- Recognizes that denial, in particular on a State level, is unacceptable and underlines that timely condemnation of genocides and efficiently addressing their consequences may serve as important tools for prevention and reconciliation,
- Calls upon the international community on the eve of the centennial commemorations of the Armenian Genocide to support the continuous efforts aimed at its worldwide recognition.

United Nations A/70/882–S/2016/451

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 44
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 16 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I enclose herewith two separate annexes recording the infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey (see annex I), as well as the illegal use of closed ports by Turkish warships (see annex II) during the month of April 2016. It should also be noted that Turkish commercial aircraft systematically use the illegal Tympou airport.

Furthermore, I wish to inform you that Turkey and the occupation regime illegally issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) on 13 April, relating to exercises organized by the Turkish Air Force.

Turkey's actions are clearly aimed at undermining the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, bolstering the continuing de facto division and upgrading the secessionist entity's status by claiming purported airspace over the occupied territory of the Republic. Additionally, Turkey continues to systematically harass civilian and military aircraft within the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) via radio calls. Meanwhile, Nicosia FIR infringements and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus continue unabated. Turkey's policy of persistently breaching international law and defying international rules and regulations puts the safety of international civil aviation at risk, impacts negatively on the stability of the region and causes difficulties for air traffic over Cyprus.

On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest the continuing infringements of international air traffic regulations and the violations of the national airspace and territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey and appeal for their immediate cessation. The Republic of Cyprus reiterates, in this respect, its call for adherence to the principle of sovereignty and non-interference enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-07960 (E) 200516

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Annex I to the letter dated 16 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Airborne violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 April	0749-0840	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1025-1315	Two Cougar Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
5 April	1704-2045	Two Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
6 April	1113-1136	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1421-1439	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1632-1658	One PA-46 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
7 April	1348-1514	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1356-1505	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1404-1449	Four F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Abbreviations: ACC, area control centre; FIR, flight information region.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
8 April	1043-1120	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1224-1414	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1418-1505	Two Cougar Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
12 April	1442-1634	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1538-1550	Two F-16 and four F-4 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
13 April	1058-1140	One Huey Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1428-1605	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
14 April	1043-1515	Two Cougar Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1111-1124	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1355-1438	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
19 April	1027-1507	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
20 April	1308-1429	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1424-1545	One Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
21 April	0858-1005	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1440-1617	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1451-1510	One GLF-4 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1745-1803	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
22 April	1028-1135	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1421-1542	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
23 April	1052-1100	One GLF-4 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
25 April	0950-1107	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1035-1055	One GLF-4 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
28 April	0920-1122	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1021-1041	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1031-1048	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1135-1148	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1130-1205	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1320-1350	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1218-1425	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Annex II to the letter dated 16 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Naval violations

Dates	*Nature of violation*
19 February-28 April	One A-573 Turkish tanker violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
6-10 April	One P-337 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
10-12 April	One P-332 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
12-13 April	One A-1600 Turkish vehicle carrier boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.
12-14 April	One P-337 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
14-18 April	One P-332 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
18-22 April	One P-336 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
22-24 April	One P-337 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
24-26 April	One P-336 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
25 April	One A-1600 Turkish vehicle carrier boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.
25-26 April	One P-346 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.
26-28 April	One P-337 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.

Dates	*Nature of violation*
28 April	One F-491 Turkish frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
28-30 April	One A-586 Turkish boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.
28 April	One P-337 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
28 April	One S-355 Turkish submarine violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Keryneia.
30 April	One P-332 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.

United Nations A/70/883

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 May 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda items 15, 19, 116 and 134

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/70/794). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 2 May 2016.

Background

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was adopted at the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held from 13 to 16 July 2015. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, prior to the adoption of the draft resolution endorsing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (A/69/L.82), the Secretary-General provided an oral statement on 24 July 2015, purporting to be made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which stated that "it is not possible for the Secretariat to determine, at this stage, the full extent of the programme budget implications

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arising from the draft resolution". On 27 July 2015, the Assembly adopted resolution 69/313, endorsing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

3. With respect to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Advisory Committee recalls that the draft outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda was agreed by consensus by Member States on 2 August 2015. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, prior to the adoption of the draft resolution to adopt the 2030 Agenda (A/70/L.1), the Secretary-General provided an oral statement on 22 September 2015, purporting to be made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which stated that "it is not possible for the Secretariat to determine, at this stage, the full extent of the programme budget implications arising from the draft resolution". The Assembly subsequently adopted resolution 70/1 on the 2030 Agenda on 25 September 2015.

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly states the following: "No resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures by the Secretary-General. No resolution in respect of which expenditures are anticipated by the Secretary-General shall be voted by the General Assembly until the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) has had an opportunity of stating the effect of the proposal upon the budget estimates of the United Nations." **In this regard, the Advisory Committee notes that with both the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Secretary-General failed to provide an estimate of expenditures for the related draft resolutions, as required under rule 153. The Committee further notes that the Secretary-General had sufficient time prior to the adoption of the draft resolutions to produce the estimate of expenditures. The Advisory Committee stresses the fundamental importance of compliance with rule 153 to the integrity of the budgetary process and underscores the responsibility of the Secretary-General to comply with the rule in order to inform Member States of the budgetary implications of a draft resolution prior to adoption.**

5. Following the adoption of resolutions 69/313 on 27 July 2015 and 70/1 on 25 September 2015, the Secretary-General presented his report on the revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in the two Agendas, dated 4 December 2015 (A/70/589). The Secretary-General requested an additional appropriation of $15,094,600 for the biennium 2016-2017 for the immediate implementation of the mandates called for in the two outcome documents (ibid., paras. 4 and 154). In its related report, the Advisory Committee noted the considerable period of time that had elapsed since the endorsement of the outcome documents (in July and September 2015, respectively) and the issuance of the Secretary-General's report, in December 2015, and considered the delay in the submission of the report to be unwarranted in view of its scope (see A/70/7/Add.39). The Committee also noted in its report that the late submission had impeded its ability to properly examine the proposals and to provide its observations and recommendations to the General Assembly. Under those circumstances, the Committee recommended that the Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding $7,547,300 in the first year of the biennium for the implementation of the decisions contained in the two Agendas. The Committee indicated it would revert to these proposals at its next session

(ibid., paras. 4-6; see also para. 20 below). By its resolution 70/248 A, the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee.

6. **The Advisory Committee regrets that, following the failure to provide budgetary implications prior to the adoption of the related draft resolutions, the Secretary-General then submitted the revised estimates for the two Agendas near the end of the main part of the seventieth session, which impeded the Committee's ability to properly examine the proposals and to provide its observations and recommendations to the General Assembly.**

Report of the Secretary-General

7. On 23 December 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/247, in which it recalled its resolutions 69/313 and 70/1 and requested the Secretary-General to provide, at the first part of its resumed seventieth session, a comprehensive proposal addressing the effective and efficient delivery of mandates in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development by the Secretariat, within the broader United Nations system, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and the United Nations Development Account.

8. According to the Secretary-General, his report (A/70/794) was submitted pursuant to that request of the General Assembly. In the report, he indicated that it addressed how Member States were responding to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the impact that the responses would have on the United Nations system; described the synergies between the Secretariat and the wider United Nations system; and presented the areas of activity by the Organization to support implementation by Member States of the two Agendas (see A/70/794, para. 3). The report did not include a detailed presentation and justification of related post and non-post resource requirements, which were set out in a separate unofficial document entitled "Supplementary financial information for the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions" and marked "Not for distribution".

9. Upon enquiry as to whether the report complied with the request of the General Assembly, the Secretariat acknowledged that the report did not comply with the time frame set out by the Assembly, as it was submitted after the first part of the resumed seventieth session. The Committee was also informed that the report did not include the revised estimates proposed in the Secretary-General's previous report (A/70/589). The Committee was further informed that the Secretariat recognized that there would be other ways, for example, through the Economic and Social Council, to consider and decide on additional mandates, and related resource requirements would be submitted later, as appropriate.

10. **The Advisory Committee notes with concern that the Secretary-General's report does not comply with the request of the General Assembly, as the report is not a comprehensive proposal for the effective and efficient delivery of mandates in support of the two Agendas, given that additional resource proposals may be submitted later and the earlier proposed revised estimates were not included. The Committee emphasizes the importance of providing Member States with a full picture of the resources related to the effective and**

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efficient delivery of mandates in support of the two Agendas. The Committee also notes with concern that the submission of the report does not comply with the time frame set out by the General Assembly. In addition, the Committee considers that the detailed presentation and justification of related post and non-post resource requirements should have been included in the Secretary-General's report instead of being presented as supplementary information in an unofficial document.

11. In paragraphs 77 and 78 of his report, the Secretary-General set out the conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly (A/70/794). In paragraph 77, the Secretary-General requested that the Assembly approve the proposed strengthened roles and areas of activity of the departments and offices of the Secretariat. In paragraph 78, he further stated that, should the Assembly agree with the proposed strengthened roles and areas of activity, additional resource requirements in the amount of $33,486,000 net of staff assessment for the biennium 2016-2017 would arise, including the establishment of 62 temporary posts. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the costs related to the 62 temporary posts were calculated based on a 50 per cent vacancy rate.

12. Upon enquiry as to the actions to be taken under paragraph 78, the Advisory Committee was informed that the report included proposals relating to departments/offices for (a) the strengthening of existing substantive roles; (b) the expansion of existing substantive activities; and/or (c) new substantive activities. The Committee was also informed that, in the view of the Secretariat, the proposals under category (a) included the strengthening of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and the United Nations Development Account, which were referred to by the General Assembly in paragraph 14 of its resolution 70/247. The Committee was further informed that the related additional resource requirements of these departments/offices were being requested in the report. The Committee was informed that proposals under category (b) comprised expanded elements of existing substantive activities that would require Assembly approval, and budgetary implications had been included for the Assembly's concurrent consideration and approval. The Committee was also informed that proposals under category (c) included new substantive activities, which would require substantive discussions by and the approval of the Assembly.

13. The Advisory Committee enquired as to whether the description of category (a) above indicated that all the activities and functions related to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and the United Nations Development Account had been mandated. The Committee did not receive a response to that enquiry. **The Advisory Committee stresses that it is incumbent upon the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly with clear information in this regard.** The Committee also did not receive a response as to whether the Secretariat would issue a corrigendum to the report to present the categories (a), (b) and (c) above to the General Assembly and to request an appropriation for the implementation of activities under category (a), given the Secretariat's explanation that those related resource requirements were being requested in the report.

14. The Advisory Committee notes that the information from the Secretary-General on the three categories of proposals was not reflected in the report and was provided as written responses to questions posed by the Committee on the action requested of the General Assembly. The Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General did not provide a clear rationale as to how each proposal was categorized under this approach, in particular why certain resources of certain departments/offices, and not others, were deemed to be under category (a). The Committee is not convinced by the Secretary-General's explanation as to which departments/offices should be included or excluded, as the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/247, referred to implementation "within the broader United Nations system", which included, but was not necessarily limited to, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and the United Nations Development Account. The Committee considers, for example, that certain proposed resources relating to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management could be considered, as they could be required to support mandated activities.

15. With respect to paragraphs 77 and 78 of the report, the Advisory Committee notes that, contrary to established practice, the Secretary-General's report does not contain a request for appropriation of the additional resource requirements, which would form the basis for a recommendation by the Advisory Committee for consideration and decision by the General Assembly. The Committee is of the view that, if the Secretary-General considered that all the resources related to the strengthening of existing mandated substantive roles were being requested in his report, the report should have included a full justification and a request for appropriation in that amount.

16. In the light of its observations set out in paragraphs 10, 14 and 15 above, the Advisory Committee considers the report of the Secretary-General to be incomplete and incoherent, and the responses provided by the Secretary-General to the Committee's questions only added to the confusion. The Committee expects future budget proposals to comply with the relevant rules and regulations and established practice, and to include a clear and fully justified request for appropriation of resources.

World Summit Outcome

17. In comparison, the Advisory Committee recalls the budgetary process followed by the Secretariat with respect to the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The 2005 World Summit was held from 14 to 16 September 2005 at United Nations Headquarters, in New York. Prior to the adoption of the draft resolution on the Outcome (A/60/L.1), the Secretary-General submitted a statement dated 14 September 2005, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, setting out the programme budget implications, estimated at approximately $80 million (see A/60/355). On 16 September 2005, the Assembly adopted resolution 60/1 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The Secretary-General then submitted his report proposing related revised estimates, dated 3 November 2005 (A/60/537), which were endorsed by the Assembly on 23 December 2005 by resolution 60/246.

18. Subsequently, in its resolution 62/236, the General Assembly recalled its resolution 60/1 and requested the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive proposal at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session with a view to improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of the development-related activities of the Secretariat, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and the Development Account. In response, the Secretary-General submitted a comprehensive report setting out resource proposals under sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 17A, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28D, 28E and 35 of the programme budget, concluding with a request for approval of specific posts and a request for appropriation in the amount of $25,571,000 (see A/62/708). **The Advisory Committee notes that the budgetary procedures were adhered to by the Secretary-General in the case of the World Summit Outcome. Considering this experience, the Advisory Committee regrets that the Secretary-General failed to comply with the relevant rules of procedure and the resolutions of the General Assembly in relation to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

Conclusion

19. **Having reviewed the entire budgetary process relating to the two Agendas as recounted above, the Advisory Committee expresses disappointment with the unsatisfactory management of the process and the non-compliance with relevant rules and regulations. The Committee also stresses that it is the responsibility of the Secretary-General to present coherent and actionable proposals to the General Assembly for its consideration and decision.**

20. **For these reasons, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit, without further delay and no later than during the main part of the seventy-first session, a comprehensive proposal that addresses the effective and efficient delivery of mandates in support of the two Agendas, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 70/247, and that takes into account the Committee's observations and comments above, in particular, it should present the total related resources, together with a request for appropriation, for the consideration and decision of the General Assembly. As the previous proposed revised estimates (see A/70/589) would be part of this upcoming comprehensive report, the Advisory Committee will revert to its consideration of the proposed revised estimates in that context.**

21. **Taking into account its views above on the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee is not in a position at this stage to recommend the appropriation of resources. However, in order to prevent further delay, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding $10 million for 2016 for the implementation of activities mandated by the General Assembly in relation to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

22. **The Advisory Committee emphasizes that it is incumbent upon the Secretary-General to ensure that any expenditure is incurred only for activities mandated by the General Assembly related to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda**

and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee also expects that the Secretary-General will provide any clarification that may be required by the General Assembly in this regard. The Committee trusts that the next report of the Secretary-General will include information on any expenditure related to this commitment authority, as well as the previous commitment authority (in an amount not exceeding $7,547,300) approved by the General Assembly in resolution 70/248 A.

United Nations A/70/884–E/2016/72

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 May 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 15
Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Economic and Social Council
2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda items 5 (a) and 6

High-level segment: Ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

Identical letters dated 16 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué of the first symposium on the promotion of an inclusive and accountable public administration for sustainable development, held in the city of Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 16 and 17 March 2016 (see annex).

The symposium was convened by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, with support from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. It provided high-level public officials from Latin America and the Caribbean with a platform to share innovative practices and lessons learned on how to build an inclusive and accountable public administration for the achievement of sustainable development. Over 400 participants from 33 countries attended this capacity development event, including ministers, government officials, representatives of the United Nations, regional development banks, academia and other relevant organizations. The symposium resulted in the communiqué annexed to the present letter.

Panellists discussed regional and international issues relating to the promotion of: (a) effective and responsible institutions for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (b) ethical leadership, professionalism

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and a culture of integrity in the public sector; (c) coordination and political and institutional integration: change of mentality and change in the current silo mode of operation; and (d) participation in decision-making and the commitment and mechanisms to ensure accountable government.

In that regard, I would appreciate the circulation of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda items 5 (a) and 6, as input for the Assembly and the Council in their deliberations on development issues as well as an official document of the high-level political forum to be held from 11 to 20 July 2016.

(*Signed*) Sacha **Llorentty Soliz**
Permanent Representative of the
Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 16 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council

Communiqué on the promotion of an inclusive and accountable public administration for sustainable development

16 and 17 March 2016

Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia

Preamble

1. The symposium on the promotion of an inclusive and accountable public administration for sustainable development was held on 16 and 17 March 2016 in Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, and was organized by the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations country team in the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

2. The symposium provided high-level public officials from Latin America and the Caribbean with a platform to share knowledge on innovative practices and lessons learned on how to build an inclusive and accountable public administration for the achievement of sustainable development. Over 400 participants attended this capacity development event, including ministers, government officials, representatives of the United Nations, regional development banks, academia and other relevant organizations.

3. Panellists discussed regional and international issues relating to the promotion of: (a) effective and responsible institutions for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (b) ethical leadership, professionalism and a culture of integrity in the public sector; (c) coordination and political and institutional integration: change of mentality and change in the current silo mode of operation; and (d) participation in decision-making and the commitment and mechanisms to ensure accountable government.

4. During the symposium, participants showed appreciation to the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ECLAC for the successful event. They also expressed gratitude for the opportunity to exchange ideas and innovative experiences that can help all member countries in achieving the objectives of sustainable development.

5. In its resolution 69/327, the General Assembly, at the initiative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, reaffirmed that among the foundations of sustainable development are transparent, participatory and responsible public institutions and a public administration that is professional, ethical and open to the use of information technology and communications. Also in the resolution, Member States were encouraged to promote effective and responsible leadership, a high level of professionalism, ethics, integrity, transparency, accountability, responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness in public institutions and the provision of public services at all levels.

6. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encompasses a common transforming vision based on solidarity, accountability and shared responsibility. It guides governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders interested in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote a better world for all.

7. The following three global United Nations conferences held in 2015 have been the basis for the strengthening of international cooperation for the promotion of the 2030 Agenda and have guided Member States in the development of their own action plans to promote sustainable development: (a) Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa in July 2015; (b) United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in September 2015 to formally adopt the Sustainable Development Goals; and (c) twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at which Member States adopted a binding agreement to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in the long term.

8. Democracy, good governance and the rule of law, along with a national and international enabling environment, are essential elements of sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger (General Assembly resolution 70/1, para. 9).

9. Social equity should be a central focus of public administration action. The poorest and most vulnerable should have equal rights and access to public services on an equal footing. Public services and social benefits should help to overcome inequality.

10. Service to citizens must be at the centre of the transformation of public administration. Appropriate institutional, professional and ethical leadership, a focus on diversity and gender equality, the use of information and communication technologies, innovation, accountability in the public sector and capacity-building are all important (resolution 69/327).

11. In its resolution 69/327, the General Assembly highlighted the positive contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities, including through some of their traditional values and principles, to strengthening individual and societal commitments in order to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of public administration and promote inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development, including the Andean principles of *ama suwa* (do not be a thief), *ama llulla* (do not be a liar) and *ama qhilla* (do not be lazy), the Inupiat values of *pitqiksiġautaiññiq* (honesty) and *qiksiksrautiqaġniq* (respect for others) and the Blackfoot value of *tukuki* (impartiality and incorruptibility), while recognizing that it is a duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

12. Also in resolution 69/327, the General Assembly reiterated that each State has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development. It recognized the importance of developing institutional capacity and human resources, e-government and citizen participation in the management of development programmes.

Recommendations

13. Based on the interventions and fruitful discussion at the international symposium on the promotion of an inclusive and accountable public administration for sustainable development, held in Cochabamba, Plurinational State Bolivia, the present communiqué highlights the following recommendations:

(a) National sovereignty over natural resources, the economy and policies is essential for building and promoting an inclusive and accountable public administration that results in a nationally owned strategy based on dialogue;

(b) States should decide how to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals into their agendas, plans and national and local policies. Three elements are important to the implementation of the Goals: inclusion, by involving all relevant stakeholders; social equity as the core of public action; and integration, by coordinating the actions of all public bodies in implementing the necessary plans;

(c) The policies formulated by States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals must be integrated and coherent. Policies are most effective when they are handled in a way that takes into consideration their interrelated complexities. In this sense, horizontal coordination within the framework of the national Government, and between central government and local authorities through integrated public policies, is needed;

(d) The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals requires transformational leadership, capabilities, and resources in public administration complemented by ethical values for the transparent management of resources. Gender inequality must be overcome through a multiplicity of public policies and, especially, through participatory gender-responsive budgets;

(e) It is necessary to rethink the relationship between state, market and civil society. We must seek a government open to citizens. A new social contract is needed so that everyone is involved in the development plan. Hence, what is needed is a smart strategic vision of the public sector and ethical leadership at all levels so that the credibility of public administration is restored;

(f) Public services must be aimed at curbing inequality. Public services are a fundamental responsibility of the State, in cooperation with civil society and the private sector. Therefore, it is necessary to promote a new model of cooperation with the private sector that is focused on the welfare of all people;

(g) For plans and projects to have effective results, they should be designed to meet the needs of people and should promote their active participation in identifying their needs, identifying solutions and, most importantly, in implementing plans and projects at all levels. The role of local authorities in sustainable development will be ever more important. Therefore, working locally with all communities through innovative mechanisms is a must;

(h) To overcome a silo mentality (working in isolation and without coordination), it is important to foster a culture of collaboration based on a vision of the common good and the results to be obtained to advance the realization of national development agendas and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(i) Innovation and technology allow the State to become closer to citizens and share information. They are also a tool for citizens to communicate their needs,

knowledge and initiatives to the public sector. Furthermore, they are a tool for all stakeholders to work together in solving social, economic and environmental problems. Cooperation is needed to overcome the technical challenges and the digital divide. Processes improving public administration through the use of technologies should be developed, taking into account the efficiency and effectiveness of the solutions that these innovative instruments provide to citizens;

(j) Human talent plays a fundamental role in the achievement of sustainable development. Thus, a new profile and new skills are needed to form the public servant of the twenty-first century, based on a culture of ethics and responsiveness to the needs of each and every citizen, with particular emphasis on gender equality issues. Public officials also need to identify future scenarios and long-term plans to eliminate poverty and inequality and to ensure the welfare of future generations. It is also important to continue to promote the principles of independence, impartiality, merit and professionalism of public servants. Honesty and integrity are fundamental to the prevention of corruption. Ethical codes are very important in ensuring respect for the principles and values;

(k) Furthermore, it is essential to continue to support capacity-building through, for example, the exchange of innovative experiences in the areas of planning and institutional coordination, leadership and citizen participation. It is also important to develop methodologies to align national plans with the 2030 Agenda. International cooperation can also be important, for example, through the support of institutions such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ECLAC and the Latin American Centre for Development Administration;

(l) Collaboration at the regional level is very important in promoting innovation and the skills needed for development;

(m) To review progress in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, it is necessary to collect and analyse disaggregated data on various aspects of sustainable development. The potential of information technology and communication could be exploited in this regard;

(n) This symposium can give new impetus to our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, drawing from the experiences of countries that have started to implement it. The discussions at the symposium will inform the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The forum is an important platform for reviewing the progress of each country in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It would be ideal for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to consider assessing their own needs, priorities and progress in the adaptation and implementation of the Goals at the national and local levels. Countries could also submit these results to the annual session of the high-level political forum that takes place at United Nations Headquarters in New York in July.

United Nations A/70/885–S/2016/455

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
19 May 2016
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 37
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 10 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) committed during the month of March 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 10 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Land violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 March 2016	0920	At Zabdin Farm inside the occupied Shab'a Farms, the Israeli enemy bulldozed land planted with olive and oak trees, using two D9 bulldozers and a tracked bulldozer escorted by a hostile patrol comprising a Merkava tank, a personnel carrier and a Defender vehicle. The Israeli enemy finished its work at 1630 hours and the patrol and vehicles left in the direction of the Zabdin post.
	1445	From inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the Lebanese Army B'ir Shu'ayb observation point, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising two vehicles appeared. Five soldiers disembarked and shouted curses at personnel at the observation point. They left in the direction of occupied territory at 1455 hours.
	1755	Opposite Birkat Ba'tha'il — Kafr Shuba, 30 cows crossed the Blue Line from occupied Palestinian territory into Lebanese territory. They left at 1845 hours.
2 March 2016	1100	From inside occupied territory opposite the town of Kafr Killa, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising a Hummer vehicle, a Defender vehicle and a white Rapid vehicle appeared. Eight soldiers disembarked to perform maintenance on border fence cameras, and one of them aimed a 12.7 mm machine gun mounted on the Hummer vehicle in the direction of Lebanese territory. The hostile patrol left in the direction of occupied territory at 1145 hours.
	1500 1600	Inside the occupied Shab'a Farms, the Israeli enemy conducted an exercise during which it fired approximately 15 shells at the perimeters of its Fashkul, Zabdin, Ramta and Summaqah posts.
3 March 2016	1100 1700	Inside the occupied Shab'a Farms, the Israeli enemy used three bulldozers to bulldoze dirt and trees on the road at its Zabdin 2 post.
5 March 2016	1130	From inside occupied territory opposite the Udaysah checkpoint, at point TP37, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising two Hummer vehicles and an construction vehicle appeared. It performed maintenance on the technical fence and replaced a sensor device. Patrol personnel also aimed a 12.7 mm machine gun in the direction of Lebanese territory. The patrol left in the direction of occupied territory at 1145 hours.
	1320	From inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Mays al-Jabal, Israeli enemy patrol personnel threw six smoke bombs into Lebanese territory. At 1340 hours, the hostile personnel moved to point BP31 (Mays al-Jabal) and threw three smoke bombs into Lebanese territory.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
6 March 2016	0930 1000	Inside the occupied Shab'a Farms, the Israeli enemy fired light and medium automatic-weapons and threw smoke bombs at the area around the Ruwaysat al-Alam post.
7 March 2016	1425	Opposite Sahl al-Khiyam, while the civilian Ali Sarhan was herding livestock, an Israeli enemy patrol appeared from inside occupied Palestinian territory. One of its personnel fired a military weapon into the air in the direction of Lebanese territory. The patrol then left in the direction of occupied territory.
8 March 2016	0830	Inside occupied territory at the Ruwaysah post opposite the town of Mays al-Jabal, the Israeli enemy installed an approximately two-metre pole on which a surveillance camera had been mounted and pointed it in the direction of Lebanese territory.
	1030	From inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Kafr Killa, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising a Hummer vehicle, two Defender vehicles and an construction vehicle appeared. Some 10 soldiers disembarked to perform maintenance on cameras mounted on the fence while some of them aimed their weapons in the direction of Lebanese territory. The patrol and vehicles left in the direction of occupied territory at 1055 hours.
	1100	The Israeli enemy used several military and civilian construction vehicles escorted by a hostile patrol to widen the road along the technical fence next to its E452 post south of Amrah in the area to which Lebanon maintains a claim. The Israeli enemy finished its work at 1730 hours.
	1215	While a herd of goats was grazing near Birkat Ba'tha'il south of Kafr Shuba, an Israeli enemy patrol appeared from inside occupied territory and fired military-weapons burst into the air in the direction of Lebanese territory.
	1630	Inside the occupied Shab'a Farms, the Israeli enemy sprayed the area around its posts with medium and light weapons.
9 March 2016	1030	Near point B90 opposite Kafr Killa meadow, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising a Hummer vehicle, a Defender vehicle and 10 soldiers appeared. They threw five smoke bombs into Lebanese territory and assumed combat positions, pointing their weapons at Lebanese territory.
	1250	The Israeli enemy used several military and civilian construction vehicles escorted by a hostile patrol to continue the work that it had begun on 8 March 2016 of widening the road along the technical fence next to its E452 post south of Amrah, in the area to which Lebanon maintains a claim. The Israeli enemy finished its work at 1730 hours.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
10 March 2016	0800	Opposite the town of Sardah, an enemy patrol comprising two Defender vehicles, a Hummer vehicle, a bulldozer and eight soldiers appeared. The bulldozer proceeded to widen the road along the technical fence, while members of the patrol aimed their weapons in the direction of Lebanese territory. The patrol left in the direction of occupied territory at 1300 hours.
	1000	The Israeli enemy used several military and civilian construction vehicles escorted by a hostile patrol to continue the work that it had begun on 8 March 2016 of widening the road along the technical fence next to its E452 post south of Amrah, in the area to which Lebanon maintains a claim. The Israeli enemy finished its work at 1750 hours.
	1030	Opposite the town of Ayta al-Sha'b, at the Lebanese Army Hadab post, an Israeli enemy patrol consisting of three vehicles, a Defender vehicle, approximately 26 soldiers and two dogs appeared. Hostile patrol personnel aimed their weapons in the direction of the Lebanese Army post, and one of them threw a smoke bomb that landed in occupied Palestinian territory.
	1200 1405	Opposite the town of Ayta al-Sha'b, at the Rahib Hill post, the Israeli enemy installed a camera on a previously existing metal tower and pointed it in the direction of Lebanese territory.
11 March 2016	0900	Inside the occupied town of Ghajar, opposite the Lebanese Army Wazzani Hill post, an Israeli enemy Humvee vehicle appeared with three soldiers inside. They pointed a camera mounted on a pole inside the vehicle towards Lebanese territory. The vehicle left in the direction of occupied territory at 0805 hours on 13 March 2016.
	1400	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, opposite the town of Kafr Killa, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising two Humvee vehicles and a Defender vehicle appeared. Nine soldiers disembarked to inspect the technical fence. They also aimed their weapons and a 12.7 mm machine gun in the direction of Lebanese territory. They left in the direction of occupied territory at 1415 hours.
13 March 2016	1215	Inside occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Labbunah, in the area around point B3, Israeli enemy soldiers aimed their personal weapons in the direction of Lebanese Army soldiers as they were inspecting the area around certain points where observation towers will be installed.
15 March 2016	0150 0240	Opposite Udaysah, near point TP36, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising eight soldiers, a bulldozer and a light vehicle appeared and entered the area to which Lebanon maintains a claim. The bulldozer removed some barriers and brush.
	1140	Opposite the town of Udaysah, at point TP36, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising a Defender vehicle appeared. Four personnel disembarked and performed maintenance on the technical fence. The patrol left at 1155 hours.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1700 1710	Opposite the town of Udaysah, at point TP36, while seven Lebanese workers were doing some work, an Israeli enemy patrol appeared and the patrol members aimed their weapons towards the workers.
	2250	Opposite Udaysah near point TP36, the Israeli enemy fired two flares from inside occupied Palestinian territory over the area to which Lebanon maintains a claim.
17 March 2016	0000	Opposite the town of Bustan, inside the Birkat Risha post, the Israeli enemy placed an espionage device enclosed in a huge plastic ball on a new metal observation tower.
21 March 2016	0930	Inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite Udaysah, at point TP36, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising a winch, a crane, a Poclain, a bulldozer, two Hummer vehicles and two trucks appeared and set up 12 cement blocks in a T configuration near the technical fence. During the work, enemy personnel aimed a 12.7 mm machine gun mounted on the Hummer vehicle in the direction of Lebanese territory. The patrol left in the direction of occupied territory at 1705 hours, except for a construction vehicle equipped with cameras that remained at the site and photographed Lebanese territory.
22 March 2016	1440	Inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Rumaysh, near the Israeli enemy's Khallat Budiyah 1 post, a Poclain bulldozer crossed the technical fence and smoothed out the dirt road between points B38 and B39, without violating the Blue Line. The work ended at 1600 hours, and the patrol left in the direction of occupied territory.
23 March 2016	1620	At Bastra Farm on the outskirts of Kafr Shuba, an Israeli enemy foot patrol violated the line of withdrawal, crossing some 30 metres into Lebanese territory, and tried unsuccessfully to abduct the herder Isma'il Zahrah and a herd of goats. The enemy patrol left in the direction of the occupied Shab'a Farms at 1625 hours.
29 March 2016	0945	From inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite Labbunah, Israeli enemy personnel aimed automatic weapons in the direction of a Lebanese Army patrol personnel.
30 March 2016	2220 2245	Several explosions were heard from inside the occupied Shab'a Farms.

Sea violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
3 March 2016	1035	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011) of 1 October 2011, proceeding some 520 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a 25-minute period. It dragged the fifth buoy south in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1618	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 130 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a two-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
5 March 2016	0156	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 300 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	1744	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 220 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a four-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
6 March 2016	1728	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 370 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a four-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
9 March 2016	1023	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 150 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a 31-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	1226	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 130 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	1300	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 260 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	1617	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 250 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
9 March 2016	1928	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 259 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a 20-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
10 March 2016	1840	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 296 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	1846	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 370 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a four-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	1847 1937	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for two periods of three minutes and two minutes, respectively.
	1923	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 352 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	1935	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 426 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
17 March 2016	1700	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 259 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
18 March 2016	1623	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 260 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a two-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
19 March 2016	0529	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 25 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a 23-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
19 March 2016	1718	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 350 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a 19-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
20 March 2016	0630	Opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 140 metres into Lebanese territorial waters, where the crew released two sonic charges into Lebanese territorial waters and used a megaphone to warn off a Lebanese fishing boat. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	1730	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 370 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
21 March 2016	1630	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree 6433 (2011), proceeding some 314 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a four-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
23 March 2016	1151	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 200 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a 46-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	1304	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 240 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a 16-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	1358	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 240 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a 32-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
24 March 2016	1815	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 296 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a two-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
26 March 2016	0410	From inside occupied Palestinian territorial waters, opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for a period of 10 seconds.
	0638	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 204 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a two-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	0645	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 241 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	0658	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 260 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a two-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	2050	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters and the Lebanese Army Ra's al-Naqurah post for a period of 10 minutes.
	2058	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 463 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a five-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
27 March 2016	1757	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 240 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
30 March 2016	1741	Off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011), proceeding some 296 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a three-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
31 March 2016	0618	Opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree 6433 (2011), proceeding some 204 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a two-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	0625	Opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree 6433 (2011), proceeding some 90 metres into Lebanese territorial waters over a 55-minute period. The launch then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	2320 2340	From inside occupied Palestinian territory at its position opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for two periods of 20 seconds and 40 seconds, respectively.

Air violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 March 2016	0755	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1400 hours over Rumaysh.
	1105	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1245 hours over Rumaysh.
3 March 2016	1210	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1400 hours over Naqurah.
5 March 2016	0915	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the South before leaving at 1730 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
6 March 2016	1955	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the Shuf before leaving at 0100 hours on 7 March 2016 over Rumaysh.
7 March 2016	0925	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, Shikka, Batrun, Tripoli and the Jubayl, Kasrawan and Matn districts before leaving at 1550 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1015	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese territory, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek, Hirmil and the South before leaving at 2240 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1850 1915	Israeli enemy warplanes and helicopters violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off the Qasimiyah, Abu al-Aswad, Sarafand and Ras al-Naqurah areas and over Lebanese territorial waters. They released several decoy flares.
8 March 2016	1030	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1210 hours over Rumaysh.
	1045	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South and Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 1410 hours over Kafr Killa.
10 March 2016	0810	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea west of Jubayl. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1325 hours over Naqurah.
	1015	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1150 hours over Aytarun.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
11 March 2016	0800	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the Western Bekaa and the South before leaving at 1105 hours over Rumaysh.
	1105	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1330 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1205	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the Western Bekaa and the South before leaving at 1405 hours over Naqurah.
	1600	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1835 hours over Rumaysh.
	2110	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South before leaving at 0255 hours on 12 March 2016 over Rumaysh.
12 March 2016	0910	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South and the Shuf before leaving at 1500 hours over Rumaysh.
19 March 2016	1320 1340	An Israeli enemy training aircraft circled over the occupied Shab'a Farms.
21 March 2016	1110	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 1730 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1305	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1430 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
22 March 2016	1010	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Iqlim al-Kharrub, Beirut and its suburbs, Tripoli and Shikka before leaving at 1600 hours over the sea west of Naqurah.
	1025	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Iqlim al-Kharrub and the South before leaving at 1530 hours over Rumaysh.
28 March 2016	1045	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1215 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
29 March 2016	0015	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 0615 hours over Naqurah.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
30 March 2016	0720	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 1940 hours over Rumaysh.
31 March 2016	0005	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 0440 hours over Naqurah.
	0940	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1105 hours over the sea west of Naqurah.

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United Nations A/70/886–S/2016/458

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
19 May 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 97
General and complete disarmament

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 18 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations of 10 May 2016, which was circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/70/871-S/2016/434). The aforementioned document represents a clear example of disinformation and yet another attempt to discredit Ukraine as a responsible and reliable actor in the international arena.

Ukraine consistently stands for strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and pays very close attention to preventive measures to counter growing threats in the area of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear safety and security. Its national progress report to the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit, which was issued as an enclosure to my letter of 21 April 2016 (A/70/840-S/2016/367), contains an overview of the measures regarding the protection of nuclear and other radioactive material implemented at the national level in accordance with our obligations and in partnership with relevant international organizations and other stakeholders. According to the implementation reports regarding the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ukraine is recognized as a State with a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol in force, and as a State in which all nuclear material remains for peaceful activities.

Despite the clear international security guarantees provided in writing in 1994 when Ukraine gave up its nuclear arsenal, the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine were explicitly breached and are still being violated by the Russian Federation. Even in such a daunting security situation, the Ukrainian leadership has unambiguously emphasized its lack of intention to develop a nuclear weapons programme.

At the same time, I cannot help but respond to one specific reference in the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, which mentions the "major source of instability threatening the entire Eurasian continent". This instability was created by the actions of the Russian Federation, which invaded,

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occupied and attempted to annex the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine), and which started, sustained and continues to wage a hybrid war against Ukraine in the Donbass region, including through the supply of heavy weapons, military equipment and regular troops, fighters and mercenaries and the sponsoring and financing of terrorist acts and terrorist organizations on the territory of Ukraine. In fact, the purposeful and persistent policy of the Russian Federation to create zones of instability in Eastern Europe has been a hallmark of Moscow's behaviour over the past 25 years. (One needs to recall, inter alia, the protracted conflicts in Transnistria (Moldova), Abkhazia and South Ossetia (Georgia).) Thus, it is the Moscow regime that undermines international peace and security in Eastern Europe and beyond.

It is worth noting that the Chernobyl disaster, which was also mentioned in the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, had occurred in "a once politically stable and developed State", and Ukraine has had to deal with the consequences of the accident ever since. It is very telling that, in the cases of both the Chernobyl disaster and the Russian aggression against Ukraine, the Moscow line has been strikingly similar: rejections, denials and outright lies in the face of clear and plain facts.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 97, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/70/887

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 May 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda items 108 and 124

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Note verbale dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to, in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), draw attention to the text of the resolution entitled "Terrorism: the need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights", adopted by consensus at the 134th IPU Assembly, held in Lusaka on 23 March 2016. The resolution is available from www.ipu.org/strct-e/stcnfres.htm#134.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations kindly requests the Secretary-General to have the present note verbale circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 108 and 124.

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